



Shonen Magazine Comics

クロマテ高校

野中英次

9

黒風玉編

前山家

VALIANTLY FORGING AHEAD!
CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL 9
"A TALE OF THINGS
TO COME."
EIJI NONAKA



野中英次

講談社

魁!! クロマティ高校 風雲編 9



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 | CHAPTER 188 | ONLY ME |
| 11 | CHAPTER 189 | EXPLOSIVE MOUSE |
| 19 | CHAPTER 190 | IT TAKES A LOT TO LAUGH |
| 25 | CHAPTER 191 | LOVE'S MEMORIES |
| 31 | CHAPTER 192 | DAY TRIPPER |
| 43 | CHAPTER 193 | BAD COMPANY |
| 55 | CHAPTER 194 | SOLID STATE SURVIVOR |
| 67 | CHAPTER 195 | IN ANOTHER LAND |
| 79 | CHAPTER 196 | DEAR FRIEND |
| 93 | CHAPTER 197 | CRUSH ON YOU |
| 105 | CHAPTER 198 | WON'T BE LONG |
| 117 | CHAPTER 199 | DON'T LET ME DOWN |
| 123 | CHAPTER 200 | CAN'T GET ANYTHING |
| 131 | CHAPTER 201 | ALL TOGETHER NOW |
| 139 | CHAPTER 202 | IT'S ALL TOO MUCH |
| 143 | CHAPTER 203 | AN INNOCENT MAN |
| 155 | CHAPTER 204 | JEALOUSY |

CHAPTER 188: **ONLY ME**





IF ANY OF
YOU DIPSHITS
HAVE A
PROBLEM,
YOU NEED TO
TAKE CARE
OF IT ON
YOUR OWN!



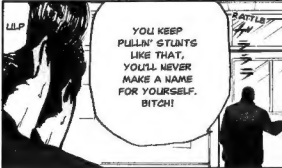
IT WAS
YOUR FIGHT,
SO USE
YOUR OWN
DAMN NAME!



YEAH, BUT
HE'S RIGHT.
YOU'VE GOTTA
WORK IF YOU
WANT TO
MAKE A
NAME FOR
YOURSELF.

HE SURE
DOESN'T
PULL ANY
PUNCHES.

LULP



YOU KEEP
PULLIN' STUNTS
LIKE THAT,
YOU'LL NEVER
MAKE A NAME
FOR YOURSELF.
BITCH!



"THIS ISN'T A LAUGH-OUT-LOUD SORT OF MANGA. IT'S MORE OF A SUBTLY-TICKLES-YOUR-FUNNY-BONE MANGA, THE KIND OF HUMOR WHERE, EVEN IF IT'S NOT SO FUNNY WHEN YOU'RE READING IT, YOU CAN FIND YOURSELF SMILING IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT LATER ON. HMM, THIS 'EXPLANATION' SORT OF MAKES THINGS MORE DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND (LOL). I KNOW YOU DON'T READ MANGA, BUT I DEFINITELY RECOMMEND GIVING THIS ONE A TRY. WELL, SEE YOU LATER."

"ACTUALLY, I'M WRITING BECAUSE THERE'S A MANGA I'D LIKE TO RECOMMEND TO YOU. BY CHANCE, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF DYNAMIC JIRO? HE'S AN ARTIST WHO DOES A ROBOT MANGA THAT RUNS IN A CERTAIN CHILDREN'S MAGAZINE."

BUT THERE'S STILL A LOT I HAVE TO DO TODAY.

WELL, I FINISHED MY E-MAIL TO SATORIN.

Message Sent

AND THERE IT GOES.

Dynamic Jiro Fansite

FIRST, IT'S TIME TO DO A LITTLE ADMINNING ON THE FORUM I SET UP THREE DAYS AGO.

THE DYNAMIC FORUM

Threads: 0
Posts: 0

WHEN NO
ONE'S MADE
A SINGLE
POST.

HM, THAT'S
GONNA BE A
LITTLE HARD...

IT TOOK A LOT
OF WORK TO
MAKE THIS SITE--
IF I DON'T TRY
TO GET AS
MANY VISITORS
AS I CAN, THEN
WHAT'S THE
POINT?!

BUT I CAN'T
JUST SIT
BACK AND
DO NOTHING.
C'MON, THINK!

WELL, I
GUESS IT
CAN'T BE
HELPED. THE
FORUM'S
ONLY BEEN UP
FOR THREE
DAYS.

Japan's Largest Forum!
The No. 1 Message Board!

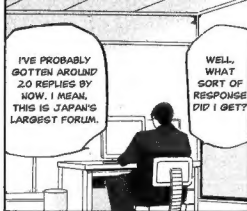
FINE, I'LL TRY
GETTING A
LITTLE TRAFFIC
FROM HERE.

JAPAN'S
LARGEST
FORUM, HUH?

I'M NOT
TOO BIG
ON DOIN'
STUFF LIKE
THIS, BUT
I NEED TO
GET THE
WORD OUT.

"THIS MAY SOUND KIND
OF LIKE SPAM (LOL),
BUT IF ANY OF YOU
GET THE CHANCE, YOU
SHOULD DEFINITELY
GIVE HIM A READ!"

"HI! DO ANY OF YOU
OUT THERE KNOW
DYNAMIC JIRO? I'VE
GOTTA SAY, I'M A
PRETTY BIG FAN OF
HIS WORK."



I'VE PROBABLY
GOTTEN AROUND
20 REPLIES BY
NOW. I MEAN,
THIS IS JAPAN'S
LARGEST FORUM.

WELL,
WHAT
SORT OF
RESPONSE
DID I GET?



FIVE
HOURS
LATER



CHK
カ
チ

THAT
SHOULD
DO IT.



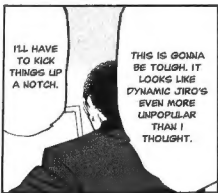
THE LARGEST
FORUM IN JAPAN...
AND I HAVEN'T
GOTTEN A SINGLE
RESPONSE.



Replies: 0

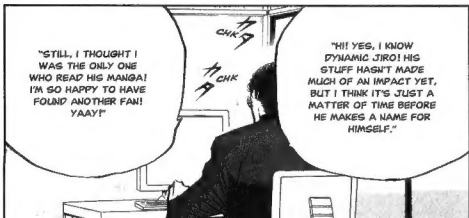


I HATE TO DO IT,
BUT I'M GONNA
HAVE TO REPLY
TO MY OWN POST.
STILL, IF I DO IT
RIGHT, NO ONE WILL
KNOW IT'S ME.



I'LL HAVE
TO KICK
THINGS UP
A NOTCH.

THIS IS GONNA
BE TOUGH. IT
LOOKS LIKE
DYNAMIC JIRO'S
EVEN MORE
UNPOPULAR
THAN I
THOUGHT.



"STILL, I THOUGHT I
WAS THE ONLY ONE
WHO READ HIS MANGA!
I'M SO HAPPY TO HAVE
FOUND ANOTHER FAN!
YAAAY!"

"HI! YES, I KNOW
DYNAMIC JIRO! HIS
STUFF HASN'T MADE
MUCH OF AN IMPACT YET,
BUT I THINK IT'S JUST A
MATTER OF TIME BEFORE
HE MAKES A NAME FOR
HIMSELF."

MAN,
I FEEL
TERRIBLE.

THAT'S THE
FIRST TIME
I'VE POSED
AS SOMEONE
ELSE ONLINE.

I GUESS
IT'S THE
SAME IN
EVERY
INDUSTRY.

LIKE, EVEN
WHEN A
MANGA'S
NOT
SELLING,
THEY'LL
RUN ADS
CALLIN' IT
A HIT.

IN THIS DAY
AND AGE,
PEOPLE WILL
USE ALL KINDS
OF TRICKS
IN ORDER TO
MAKE IT. IT'S
PRACTICALLY
A GIVEN!

STILL, THAT'S WHAT
IT COMES DOWN
TO. I REALLY THINK
DYNAMIC JIRO
HAS TALENT--BUT
HAVIN' TALENT IS
NO GUARANTEE OF
SUCCESS!

Threads: 0
Posts: 0

WELL, LET'S
SEE HOW
THINGS ARE
GOIN' ON
THE FORUM.

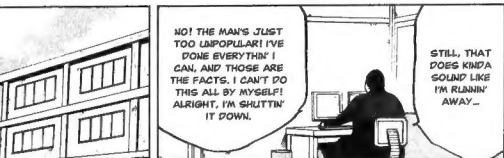
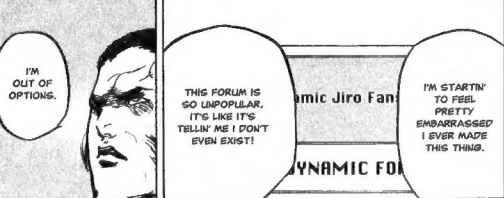
ONE
WEEK
LATER

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S
A CRIME. IT'S ALL
ABOUT MAKIN' A
NAME FOR YOURSELF,
AND I'M JUST DOING
WHAT I CAN TO HELP
OUT. NOTHIN' WRONG
WITH THAT.

I HATE
TO SAY
IT, BUT...

IN A WAY,
IT'S SORT OF
INCREDIBLE
THAT SOMEONE
COULD BE SO
UNPOPULAR.
YOU'VE GOTTA
HAND IT TO
THE GUY.

THIS IS
REALLY
NOT
GOOD.





WE BOTH GOT OUR
ASSES KICKED. SO
THERE WAS NO REAL
WINNER. BUT I FEEL
SATISFIED.

I'M GLAD I
DID IT ON
MY OWN!



WE CAN MAKE
IT ON OUR
OWN! CAN'T WE,
FUJIMOTO?

I DID JUST
LIKE FUJIMOTO
SAID--I TOOK
'EM ON IN MY
OWN NAME, AND
I DID IT ALL
ALONE!



CRACK!

DOIN' IT ON
YOUR OWN IS
IMPOSSIBLE!



HE
CHANGED
HIS MIND
AGAIN.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THEY MADE THIS INTO AN ANIME?

CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL



WINNER OF THE
**Kodansha
Manga
Award**



"You can't help but laugh out loud at half-baked people in a half-baked world, functioning with the conviction that what they do is right, smart or tough."

Ain't It Cool News

PC problems are plaguing the temperamental leader of Manuel High School, sending his gang of thugs into a tizzy. Meanwhile the leader of Destrade High finds himself flummoxed by a gag manga he just doesn't find funny. But that's nothing compared to the commotion back at Cromartie! (Note to Masked Takenouchi: Do NOT bump into Hayashida while he's eating...)



www.adv-manga.com

Graphic Novel/
Manga/Comedy

USA \$10.95
MCM/COG



13+

ISBN 978 1-4139-0357-7



CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL





CHAPTER 189: **EXPLOSIVE MOUSE**

THE DYNAMIC FORUM

Threads: 0
Posts: 0

THERE'S GOTTA
BE A LIMIT TO
HOW UNPOPULAR
A GUY CAN BE!
I'M STARTIN'
TO FEEL LIKE
PEOPLE OUT-
RIGHT HATE HIM.

IT'S ALREADY
BEEN A MONTH,
AND THERE **STILL**
HAVEN'T BEEN ANY
POSTS.



NOT A SINGLE
PERSON IN THE
WORLD IS PAYING
ATTENTION TO
THIS MANGA.



THE INTERNET
SENDS OUT
INFORMATION
ACROSS THE
ENTIRE WORLD.
SO THAT
MEANS...



.....



IT'S GOT ME
THINKIN' THAT
MAYBE I'M
SOMEHOW
RESPONSIBLE
FOR IT BEING SO
UNPOPULAR.



WHY SHOULD I
FEEL RESPONSIBLE?
DAMMIT! THIS
AUTHOR'S STARTIN'
TO PISS ME OFF!



NO, THAT'S
NOT IT! I'VE
GOT NOTHIN'
TO DO WITH
IT!

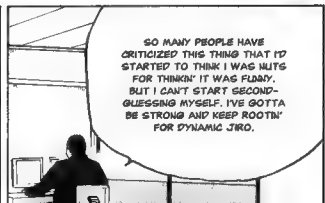
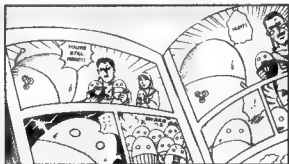
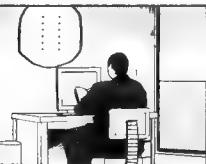
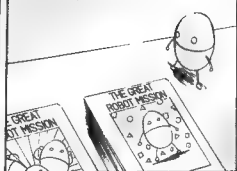


IS THIS
MANGA EVEN
ANY GOOD?

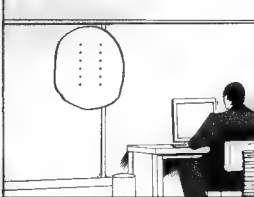


I JUST
THOUGHT
OF
SOME-
THING.

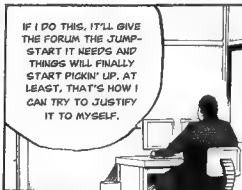




IT CAN'T BE
HELPED. I'LL
JUST HAVE
TO WRITE THE
POSTS MYSELF.



IF I DO THIS, IT'LL GIVE
THE FORUM THE JUMP-
START IT NEEDS AND
THINGS WILL FINALLY
START PICKIN' UP. AT
LEAST, THAT'S HOW I
CAN TRY TO JUSTIFY
IT TO MYSELF.



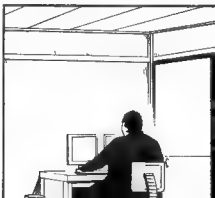
I'VE ALREADY
POSED AS
SOMEONE ELSE--
IT MAKES NO
DIFFERENCE HOW
MANY TIMES
I DO IT NOW.

"I'M GONNA DO MY
BEST TO SUPPORT
JIRO AND HIS WORK!
ANYWAY, SORRY FOR
CARRYING ON LIKE
THIS. I'LL PROBABLY
POP IN LATER
TONIGHT. THANKS!"



"DEAR ADMIN. NICE TO
MEET YOU. I'M HONYARA,
AND I'M ALSO A FAN OF
JIRO'S WORK. I SURE
WAS SURPRISED TO FIND
THIS WEBSITE. I WISH
I'D KNOWN ABOUT IT
SOONER! (LOL)"

HOW
EMBARRASSING.





SOME COMEDIAN A LONG TIME AGO SAID, "IF YOU TRY DOIN' AN ACT WHEN YOU'RE EMBARRASSED, YOU'RE NOT GONNA GET ANY LAUGHS."

IT'S THE SAME WITH ME NOW. I'VE GOTTA CLEAR MY HEAD OF THIS STUFF AND JUST DO IT!

I CAN'T LET SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS GET ME DOWN.



HMPH. YEAH, THAT HELPED.

"NICE TO MEET YOU ALL! ♡ I'M MIKA AND I'M A 17-YEAR-OLD SCHOOLGIRL. THAT GREAT ROBOT MISSION IS SOOOO CUTE, RIGHT? I BORROWED A COPY FROM MY BOYFRIEND THE OTHER DAY AND I TOTALLY LIKED IT! SO NOW I'M A BIG FAN :) THE SITE IS AWESOME, TOO! I'LL DEFINATELY BE BACK!!! ♡"

NOTE: MISSPELLING IS INTENTIONAL



"HEY HEY, WHAT'S UP, PEEPS?! CALL ME 'THE MUSTACHE'! I TELL YA, THAT DYNAMIC JIRO GUY IS GREAT! HIS STUFF'S NOT TOO POPULAR YET, BUT I GUARANTEE THAT HIS TIME IS GONNA COME! THE MAN'S GOT TALENT!"



I'LL MAKE THIS ONE A LITTLE LIGHT-HEARTED.

"STILL, ONCE HE DOES MAKE IT BIG, I THINK I'LL PROBABLY FEEL A LITTLE SAD, LIKE HE'S MOVING FARTHER AWAY FROM US, YOU KNOW? HEH, LET'S ALL KEEP SHOWING HIM OUR SUPPORT, OK? ANYWAY, I'M ALDI SI! (WHOA, DEAD SLANG!)"

"THE FACT WE'RE INTO HIM NOW BEFORE HE'S EVEN POPULAR IS GONNA MAKE IT THAT MUCH SWEETER WHEN HE FINALLY MAKES THE BIG TIME. WE'LL ALL BE LIKE, 'HA! I'VE KNOWN ABOUT HIM FOR A LONG TIME!'"

"DIE,
DYNAMIC
JIRO."

DIE, DYNAMIC
JIRO!

I SHOULD
THROW IN
A FLAME
FOR GOOD
MEASURE.

STILL, IT'LL
LOOK KIND
OF FAKE IF
PEOPLE POST
NOTHING
BUT GOOD
THINGS.

YEAH,
THIS IS
STARTIN'
TO MAKE
THINGS
MORE
LIVELY.

HM?

ALRIGHT,
A POST!

ONE
WEEK
LATER

THAT LOOKS
GOOD. LET'S
SEE HOW
THINGS GO.

WH-WHAT?!
THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!
HOW DID HE
FIND OUT?

Username: Passerby
Hey, admin! You're just
typing this stuff yourself!
How obvious can you
get?! LOLLOLOL!!!!!!

NOTE INTENTIONAL

HE'S JUST
JEALOUS THAT
THE FORUM IS
STARTING TO
GET ALL THIS
ACTIVITY! HA HA!
WHAT A LOSER.

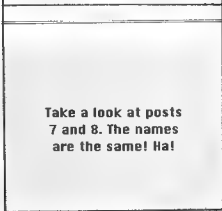
AH.
THAT
MUST
BE IT.

NO...
THERE'S NO
WAY SOME
AMATEUR
COULD HACK
HIS WAY
THROUGH
ALL THIS
SECURITY.

DON'T
TELL
ME HE
TRACED
MY I.P.
ADDRESS!



WHAT? THE SAME?!



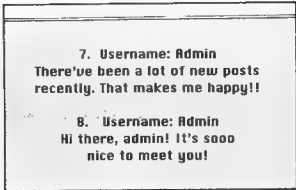
Take a look at posts 7 and 8. The names are the same! Ha!



HUH? THERE'S ANOTHER POST.



DAMMIT! I FORGOT TO CHANGE MY USERNAME!



7. Username: Admin
There've been a lot of new posts recently. That makes me happy!!

8. Username: Admin
Hi there, admin! It's sooo nice to meet you!



AS IF IT WASN'T BAD ENOUGH, I WROTE THAT SECOND POST PRETENDIN' TO BE A GIRL! MAN, I REALLY SCREWED UP!

GRARGH, I'M SO EMBARRASSED!



MY FACE IS GETTIN' ALL HOT. I'M SO BUSTED! IT'S OVER!

IF SOMEBODY FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS... WHAT AM I GONNA DO?!

HA! YEAH, THERE'S A BUNCH OF PISSANTS OUT THERE WHO TRY TO PASS THEMSELVES OFF AS YAKUZA. LIKE, "DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKIN' TO?"

YESTERDAY, SOME FOOL TRIED PICKIN' A FIGHT WITH ME. HE WAS ALL, "YOU WANNA TAKE THIS UP WITH MY CREW?"

WHAT IS IT?

HEY, CHECK THIS OUT.

GETTIN' YOUR REAL IDENTITY BUSTED LIKE THAT HAS GOTTA BE THE GREATEST SHAME THERE IS! YOU'D BE SO EMBARRASSED YOU'D JUST WANNA DIE!

THE LOOK ON HIS FACE WHEN YOU FOUND OUT MUST'VE BEEN PRICELESS! MAN, I GOT TEARS IN MY EYES!

AN OFFICE DUDE WAS TRYIN' TO ACT LIKE A YAKUZA? HA!

SO I TAKE THE IDIOT 'ROUND BACK AND START PUTTIN' THE HURT ON HIM. TURNS OUT HE'S JUST SOME OFFICE WORKER!

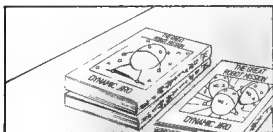
SO BASICALLY, HE HITS YOU NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY.

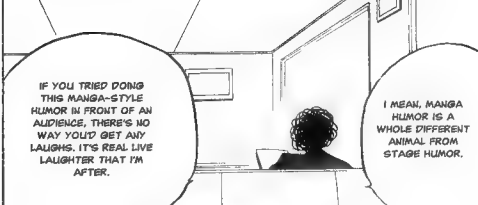
CRACK!

TRY PUTTIN' YOURSELF IN THE OTHER GUY'S SHOES!

HE MUST BE *REALLY* EMBARRASSED.

CHAPTER 190: IT TAKES A LOT TO LAUGH





IF YOU TRIED DOING
THIS MANGA-STYLE
HUMOR IN FRONT OF AN
AUDIENCE, THERE'S NO
WAY YOU'D GET ANY
LAUGHS. IT'S REAL LIVE
LAUGHTER THAT I'M
AFTER.

I MEAN, MANGA
HUMOR IS A
WHOLE DIFFERENT
ANIMAL FROM
STAGE HUMOR.



WHEN PEOPLE
READ A MANGA,
THEY WANNA
BE MOVED OR
EXCITED!

ACTUALLY,
WHAT'S THE
POINT OF EVEN
TRYIN' TO HAVE
A MANGA MAKE
PEOPLE LAUGH?



STILL, THERE
ARE PEOPLE
WHO'LL LET OUT
A LITTLE "HEH!"
WHEN THEY'RE
READING A
MANGA IN THE
CONVENIENCE
STORE.

BUT IS IT
REALLY
THAT
FUNNY?



NO
MATTER
HOW YOU
SLICE IT...

NOBODY'S
GONNA READ
A MANGA
BECAUSE
THEY WANT A
GOOD LAUGH.



WELL, THAT
GUY'S AN
EXCEPTION.
HE'S AN IDIOT.

BWAHAHA!
THIS MANGA
IS FRIGGIN'
HILARIOUS!



YOUR BASIC IDIOT HAS NO
COMIC SENSIBILITIES--IF YOU
CAN MAKE **THEM** LAUGH,
YOU'VE ATTAINED THE HIGHEST
LEVEL OF SKILL. ANYONE WHO
SAYS, "THEY'RE MORONS, SO
THEY'LL NEVER GET IT" IS ON
THE WAY TO BECOMING ONE
SELF-ABSORBED ENTERTAINER.

WAIT A MINUTE.
I CAN'T JUST
WRITE PEOPLE
OFF AS IDIOTS
AND LEAVE IT
AT THAT.



IT MAY BE JUST
MANGA, BUT IT'S
BOUND TO HAVE
ITS GOOD PARTS. I
SHOULD SOFTEN MY
STANCE AND ABSORB
WHAT I CAN FROM IT.

YEAH, I
NEED TO
BROADEN MY
HORIZONS A
LITTLE.



WELL, IS
ANYONE HERE
READING THIS
PARTICULAR
COMIC?



DOES THAT
MEAN THEY'RE
BIG SELLERS?
OR ARE
THEY JUST
SITTING THERE
BECAUSE NO
ONE'S BUYING
THEM?

THERE
SURE
ARE A
LOT OF
THEM.





BINGO.



I CAN
UNDERSTAND
SOMEONE
LETTING OUT A
LAUGH OR TWO
IF SOMETHING'S
FUNNY...

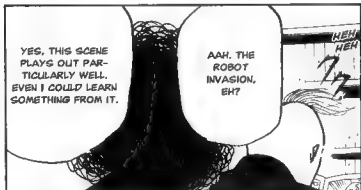


HE'S LAUGHING.
AND HE'S NO
KID, EITHER. ANY
MANGA THAT CAN
MAKE AN ADULT
LAUGH MUST
HAVE SOMETHING
GOING FOR IT.



BUT I
THINK
THAT'S
GOING A
LITTLE
TOO FAR.

WA
HA
HA
HA
HA



THE GREAT ROBOT MISSION

HUH?

ROBOT...
MISSION?

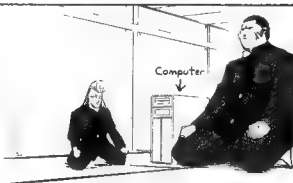
IT WAS
THE WRONG
MANGA?!

OH. THIS
WASN'T
IT.

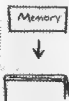
THERE REALLY ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO'LL LAUGH IF SOMETHING SEEMS FUNNY.

CHAPTER 191: LOVE'S MEMORIES

THE INTERNET KINGPIN
ATTEMPTS TO UPGRADE HIS
COMPUTER'S MEMORY (TO
INCREASE PERFORMANCE)



IT SEEMS
SIMPLE
ENOUGH:
JUST POP
THE MEMORY
STICK INTO
THE SLOT.
BUT THERE'S
MORE TO
IT.



UPGRADING YOUR
COMPUTER'S MEMORY
IS THE FIRST STEP TO
BECOMIN' A REAL COMPUTER
USER. IT'S ESSENTIAL FOR
ANYONE LOOKIN' TO GO ON
AND GET MORE ADVANCED
KNOWLEDGE.



AS FOR
WHAT
CAUSES
STATIC
ELEC-
TRICITY...

THESE DAYS, 256 MB OF
MEMORY WILL SET YOU BACK
7-8,000 YEN (BASED ON A
SURVEY OF THE AKIHABARA
ELECTRONICS DISTRICT).
BUT ONE ZAP AND ALL THAT
MONEY GOES UP IN SMOKE.
THAT'S PRETTY DAMN SCARY.



THE MAIN THING
YOU'VE GOTTA
BE CAREFUL
OF IS STATIC
ELECTRICITY.
IT'LL DESTROY
YOUR MEMORY.

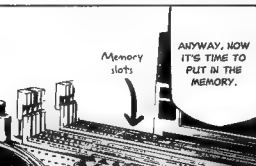
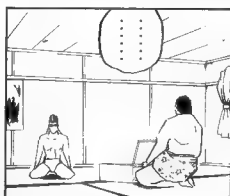
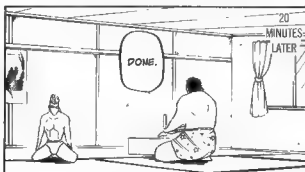
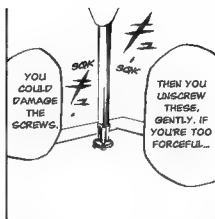
THAT GOT ME
THINKIN'. THERE'S
GOTTA BE SOME
SURE-FIRE WAY
TO STOP THAT
FROM HAPPENING.

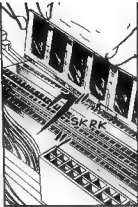
IF YOU'VE
GOT CLOTHES
ON, YOU'RE
ALREADY
MAKIN' STATIC
ELECTRICITY.

WHEN YOU
MOVE
AROUND, YOUR
CLOTHES RUB
UP AGAINST
YOUR SKIN.





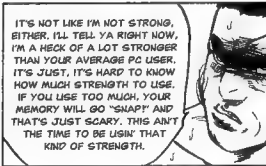




IT WON'T
GO IN.



AM I
TRYIN'
TO PUT
IT IN THE
WRONG
WAY?



IT'S NOT LIKE I'M NOT STRONG,
EITHER. I'LL TELL YA RIGHT NOW,
I'M A HECK OF A LOT STRONGER
THAN YOUR AVERAGE PC USER.
IT'S JUST, IT'S HARD TO KNOW
HOW MUCH STRENGTH TO USE.
IF YOU USE TOO MUCH, YOUR
MEMORY WILL GO "SNAP!" AND
THAT'S JUST SCARY. THIS AN'T
THE TIME TO BE USIN' THAT
KIND OF STRENGTH.



I SHOULD
TRY DOIN'
THIS OVER
FROM THE
BEGINNING.



YOU
FOLLOW THE
DIRECTIONS.
BUT YOU
~~STILL~~
CAN'T GET
THAT DAMN
FLAVOR
PACKET
OPEN.

IS THIS
~~STILL~~
BROKEN?
OR MAYBE
IT'S LIKE
WHEN YOU
GET A
PACK OF
INSTANT
RAMEN.



NO, I'M
DOIN' IT
RIGHT.



I'M COLD.



I FEEL LIKE
I'VE GOT
A SLIGHT
FEVER, TOO.



THIS IS BAD.
I'M STARTIN'
TO GET
REALLY
COLD.

WHAT THE HELL
GOOD WOULD
CLOTHES BE
IF I'D DON'
THIS ALL OVER
AGAIN?!

BUT THIS
AIN'T THE
TIME FOR ME
TO START
PUTTIN'
CLOTHES ON.



I'M GONNA
HAVE TO
FINISH
THIS UP
TOMORROW.

THERE'S
ONLY ONE
THING I
CAN DO.



WHAT
IS IT?

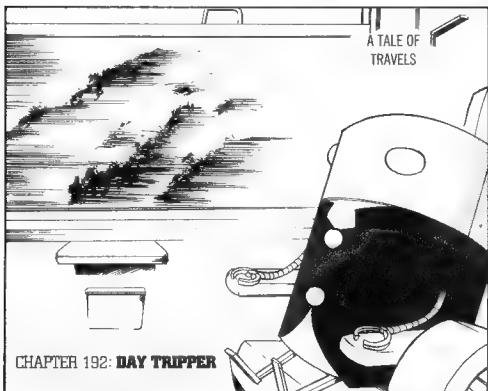
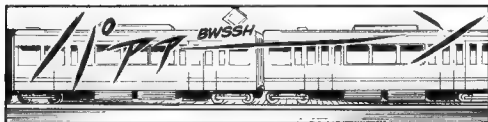


HEY, DID
YOU ALL
SEE THIS?



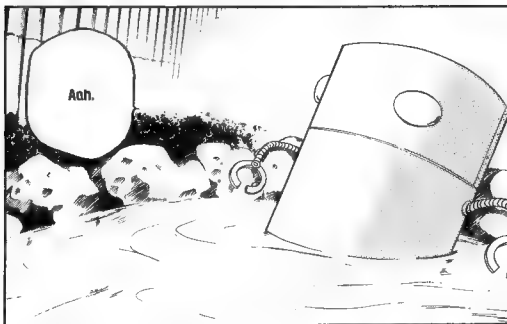


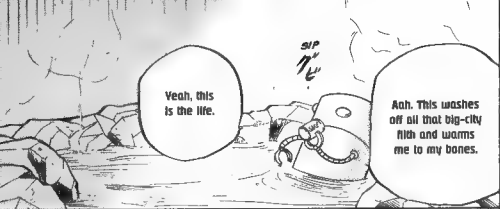
IT'S GOTTEN RATHER CHILLY RECENTLY.



Yeah, travelin' by yourself like this is kinda nice. Maybe I'll stop by a hot spring.

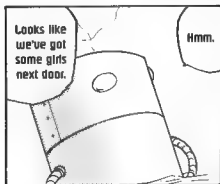
Once in a while, it's good to get away from the commotion of the big city and just take it easy.





Yeah, this
is the life.

Aah. This washes
off all that big-city
filth and warms
me to my bones.



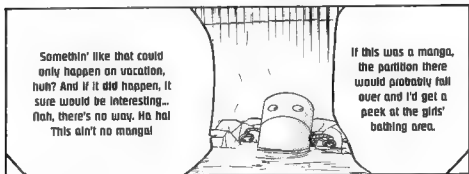
Looks like
we've got
some girls
next door.

Hmm.



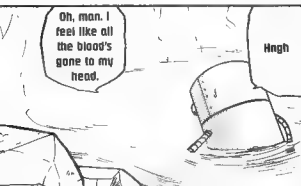
CUT
THAT OUT,
HIROKO!

EEK!
IT'S
COLD!



Somethin' like that could
only happen on vacation,
huh? And if it did happen, it
sure would be interesting...
Nah, there's no way. Ha ha!
This ain't no manga!

If this was a manga,
the partition there
would probably fall
over and I'd get a
peek at the girls'
bathing area.



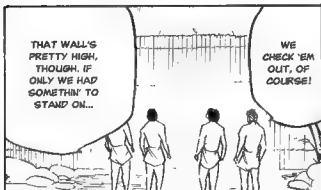
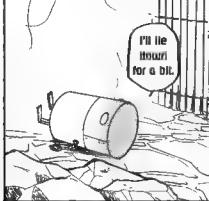
Oh, man. I
feel like all
the blood's
gone to my
head.

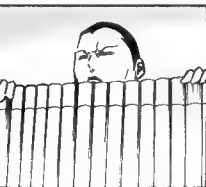
Hgh



BEEP

BEEP







YEAH,
THAT!

YOU MEAN
THAT?

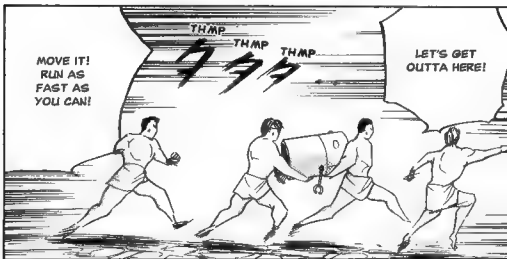


UH, LIKE
ANYTHING WE
USED TO TRY
TO SNEAK A
PEEK AT 'EM.



WELL...

OK.



MOVE IT!
RUN AS
FAST AS
YOU CAN!

THMP THMP THMP

LET'S GET
OUTTA HERE!



TELL ME
ABOUT IT.
WERE A
BLINCH OF
IDIOTS, HUH?
HA HA!

≡ HUFF ≡
≡ HUFF ≡

MAN, THAT
WAS TOO
SCARY!



A black and white comic panel showing three characters. On the left, a character with dark hair and a patterned shirt is speaking. In the center, a character with glasses is partially visible. On the right, a character with a high forehead and a patterned shirt is speaking.

HAH, HE'S GOT A POINT. RIGHT UP TO THE END, NONE OF US HAD ANY LUCK WITH THE LADIES. IT KINDA MAKES GRADUATING A LITTLE SAD...

DUDE, DON'T SAY THEY WERE "DEAD"!

WELL, SEEN' AS HOW OUR LOVE LIVES WERE ALL PRETTY MUCH DEAD, I THINK WE'RE GONNA LOOK BACK ON THIS AND LAUGH.

A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of a character's face on the left, looking towards the right.

G-GET REAL! WE'RE NOT GON' OUT!

A black and white comic panel showing two characters. One character with glasses is speaking to another character.

YASUO HERE STARTED SEEN' THAT GIRL YUKO.

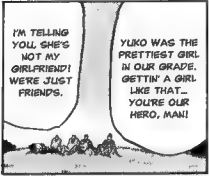
A black and white comic panel showing a close-up of a character's face on the right, looking towards the left.

NOT ALL OF US HAD IT BAD.

A black and white comic panel showing two characters. One character with glasses is speaking to another character.

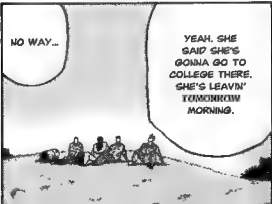
NO, IN FACT, SHE'S MOVING AWAY TO TOKYO.

ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU TWO AREN'T DATING?

A black and white comic panel showing a group of people sitting on a hill in the background. In the foreground, a character is speaking.

I'M TELLING YOU, SHE'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND! WE'RE JUST FRIENDS.

YUKO WAS THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN OUR GRADE. GETTIN' A GIRL LIKE THAT... YOU'RE OUR HERO, MAN!

A black and white comic panel showing a group of people sitting on a hill in the background. In the foreground, a character is speaking.

NO WAY...

YEAH, SHE SAID SHE'S GONNA GO TO COLLEGE THERE. SHE'S LEAVIN' TOMORROW MORNING.

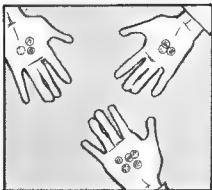
A black and white comic panel showing two characters. One character with glasses is speaking to another character.

TOKYO?! SHE'S MOVIN' TO TOKYO?



AND HER
FAMILY'S
RICH.

SHE SURE
WAS
SMART,
HLIH?



HLIH?
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKIN'
ABOUT,
YOSHIO?

HEY,
HOW MUCH
DO YOU ALL
HAVE ON
YOU?



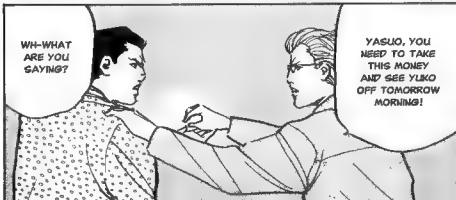
FINE.
520 YEN
IT IS.



WHAT
ABOUT
YOU? ALL
YOU HAD
WAS 120!

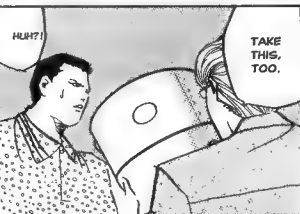
JUST 520 YEN?
YOU SONS OF
BITCHES REALLY
ARE POOR,
AREN'T YOU?

*ABOUT \$5 U.S.



WH-WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

YASUO, YOU
NEED TO TAKE
THIS MONEY
AND SEE YUKO
OFF TOMORROW
MORNING!



YEAH, BUT
I HAVEN'T
DECIDED IF
I'M GOING
OR NOT.

JUST
GO!

'CUZ IT'S SO
BIG! AND IT
LOOKS GREAT.
ANYWAY,
WOMEN DON'T
CARE WHAT
YOU GIVE 'EM--
ANYTHING WILL
MAKE THEM
HAPPY.

TH-THIS
THING'S
PRETTY
HEAVY.



THE
NEXT
DAY



YUKO!

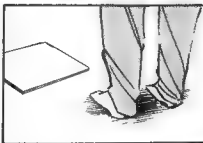




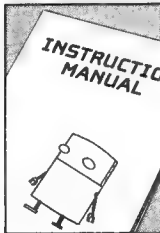
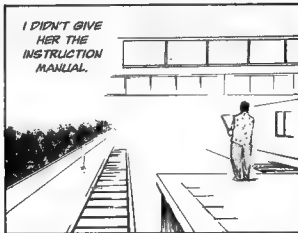
STILL, I'M
GLAD I CAME.
AT LEAST I
GOT TO SAY
GOODBYE.



WHEN YUKO SAID "SEE YOU"
AND TURNED AWAY, HER FACE
WAS SO DISTANT. SHE'S OFF
TO THE CITY NOW, AND SHE
PROBABLY DOESN'T PLAN ON
EVER SEEING ME AGAIN.



I DIDN'T GIVE
HER THE
INSTRUCTION
MANUAL.



YASUO'S LOVE LIFE: NOW RUNNING SERIALY (AND SPORADICALLY).

CHAPTER 193: BAD COMPANY

I'M THE LEADER OF
DESTRAGE HIGH'S 1ST YEARS,
AND THE TOUGHEST SON OF
A BITCH YOU'VE EVER SEEN.
I'M ALSO A FAN OF STAND-UP
COMEDY WHO LIKES TO SUBMIT
JOKES TO LATE-NIGHT RADIO
PROGRAMS, BUT THAT'S A
SECRET.

MY NAME'S
NOBORU
YAMAGUCHI.

LET'S
GET 'EM!

WHAT?!
WHO THE
HELL DO
THEY THINK
THEY ARE?

DAMMIT!
THOSE
PUNKS FROM
CROMARTIE
HAVE COME
LOOKIN' FOR A
FIGHT AGAIN!

HELL,
YEAH!
LET'S
DO
THIS!

THEY
MAY HAVE
TAKENOUCHI
AND WHO
KNOWS
WHAT ELSE
ON THEIR
SIDE, BUT
THEY'VE
HAD IT!

YEAH!
IT'S LIKE
THEY THINK
THEY'RE
BETTER
THAN US!

THOSE
GUYS
SURE
HAVE BEEN
COCKY
LATELY.

THE THING IS...

AH. SO
THAT'S
IT.



SO YOU WIN A FIGHT,
SO WHAT? WHAT HAVE
YOU ACCOMPLISHED?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'LL
GET ANY PRIZE MONEY.
IS IT EVEN WORTH IT?

DAY IN AND DAY
OUT, ALL THEY
EVER TALK ABOUT
IS FIGHTING.
DON'T THEY GET
TIRED OF IT?

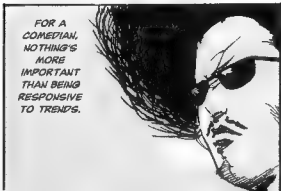


THOSE IDIOTS
MAY BE ENJOYING
THEMSELVES, BUT
THAT KIND OF TALK
IS JUST A PAIN FOR
WHOEVER HAS TO
LISTEN TO IT.

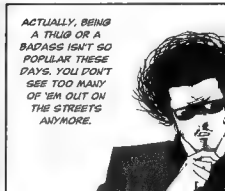
I GUESS IT'S GOOD
MATERIAL FOR ONCE
YOU'VE ENTERED THE
WORKPLACE, SO WHEN
YOU START SWAPPING
STORIES ABOUT YOUR
PAST, YOU CAN SAY,
"YEAH, I USED TO
BE A BADASS... BUT
THAT'S ABOUT IT."



FOR A
COMEDIAN,
NOTHING'S
MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN BEING
RESPONSIVE
TO TRENDS.



ACTUALLY, BEING
A THUG OR A
BADASS ISN'T SO
POPULAR THESE
DAYS. YOU DON'T
SEE TOO MANY
OF 'EM OUT ON
THE STREETS
ANYMORE.



**PATHETIC
EVERY-
THING-OUT
OF THESE
GUYS'
MOUTHS
IS SO
BORING!**

**I CAN'T
WAIT TO
SEE THE
LOOKS
ON THEIR
FACES!**

**I'M GONNA
GIVE THOSE
CROMARTIE
CHUMPS A
TASTE OF MY
RIGHT HOOK!
HEH HEH.**

**HECK, EVEN
ISHIKAWA'S
MORE
INTERESTING
THAN THESE
MORONS.**

**DON'T THEY EVEN
CARE ABOUT HAVING
CONVERSATIONS THAT
OTHER PEOPLE FIND
INTERESTING? ARE THEY
THAT SELFISH?**

**SURE, HE CAN GET
THE OCCASIONAL
LAUGH, BUT HE JUST
DOESN'T HAVE ANY
COMEDIC SENSE.
THAT'S SOMETHING
YOU HAVE TO BE
BORN WITH, AND
HE WASN'T.**

↳ Ishikawa

**OF COURSE,
IT'S ONLY IN A
"SLIGHTLY BETTER
IN COMPARISON
TO THOSE GUYS"
SORT OF WAY. YOU
ASK ME, HE'S STILL
LITTLE MORE THAN
A BEGINNER.**

**IF YOU'VE BEEN
BORING YOUR WHOLE
LIFE, THERE'S NO WAY
YOU CAN SUDDENLY
BECOME FUNNY
OVERNIGHT.**

**WHEN SOMEONE IS
BORING, IT DOESN'T
MATTER HOW HARD
THEY TRY, THEY'RE
NEVER GONNA BE
FUNNY.**



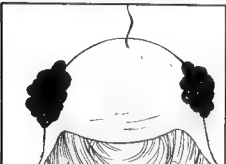
HEH!

MORNING,
ISHIKAWA!

HEY.

NOW SUDDENLY
HE'S FUNNY!
HOW IS THIS
POSSIBLE?!

THAT...THAT'S
FUNNY, BUT
ISHIKAWA'S
ALWAYS BEEN
SO BORING.



WAIT A MINUTE.
I NEED TO STOP
AND THINK
ABOUT THIS
RATIONALLY.



PHWE

OK, NOW I
FEEL BETTER.
I WAS PRETTY
WORRIED FOR A
SECOND THERE.

OH, I GET IT.
IT'S THE CAP.
THAT'S FUNNY,
NOT ISHIKAWA.
YEAH, THERE'S NO
WAY HE COULD
JUST SUDDENLY
BECOME FUNNY.

I LAUGHED. IT WAS A
SHORT LAUGH, BUT A LAUGH
NONETHELESS. THAT MEANS I
HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT
WAS FUNNY. WHY, WHY?!

WAIT A
MINUTE.

BUT TO JUST SHOW
UP AND SUDDENLY
HAVE THAT THING ON
YOUR HEAD...IT'S NOT
ONLY BOLD, IT'S SOME
PRETTY SERIOUS
TECHNIQUE.

THAT BOLD-
CAP GAG IS SO
OLD THAT IT'S
A Cliche.

THERE'S NO
DOUBT ABOUT
IT--ISHIKAWA'S
COMEDIC SENSE
HAS IMPROVED
DRAMATICALLY.

USUALLY PEOPLE
WANT TO MAKE A
BIG DEAL OF IT, LIKE,
"HEY, LOOK AT THIS
THING ON MY HEAD!
PRETTY FUNNY, HUH?"
BUT HE'S STAYING
PERFECTLY CALM AND
COLLECTED.

ISHIKAWA...
I'VE CHANGED
MY MIND
ABOUT YOU.

ALRIGHT, I TAKE
BACK MY EARLIER
STATEMENT. IF
YOU'VE BEEN BORING
YOUR WHOLE LIFE,
SOMETIMES YOU **CAN**
SUDDENLY BECOME
FUNNY OVERNIGHT.

I HEARD WHAT
YOU ALL SAID!
LET'S GO BURN
CROMARTIE TO
THE GROUND!

THEY'RE
COMPLETELY
IGNORING
YOU.

YEAH,
ABOUT 30
OF 'EM.

HAVE WE
GOT THE
TROOPS
TOGETHER?

ANYTHING I
CAN DO TO
HELP, YOU
JUST LET
ME KNOW!

POOR GUY.
THEY'RE NOT
GIVING HIM
A LEG TO
STAND ON.

SOMEBODY
LAUGH, DAMMIT!
THIS IS PRETTY
FUNNY.



NO, THAT'S
IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S
A FRICKIN' BALD
CAP! WHAT COULD
POSSIBLY BE EASIER
TO UNDERSTAND?!
AN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL KID WOULD
GET IT.



WHAT
IS IT?



HEY, ASAI.
COME HERE
A MINUTE.



YEAH,
HE
DOES.



YEAH. IT'S
FLNNY.



EVERYONE'S
DEAD SERIOUS
ABOUT THIS!

THIS IS LIFE-AND-DEATH
TIME, YAMAGUCHI! WE CAN'T
BE SITTIN' AROUND LAUGHING.
WE HAVE TO GO OUT THERE
AND FIGHT. GET OUR NAMES
OUT ONTO THE STREETS! IT'S
EITHER THAT OR WE RUN AWAY
AND LOSE EVERYTHING!

I GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT.

WITH ALL THAT'S
GOIN' ON, HOW
COULD ANYONE
LAUGH AND SAY,
"THAT'S FUNNY"?!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR
THAT RIGHT NOW!

RATHER THAN
LAUGHTER, PEOPLE
WANT TO BE MOVED,
TO FEEL PASSION.
THAT'S JUST HOW
THINGS ARE. WE'RE
THE SIDE DISH TO
SOMEONE ELSE'S
MAIN COURSE.

THE
COMEDIAN
HAS ALWAYS
PLAYED A
SUPPORTING
ROLE.

EVEN
GO

WE'RE
ABOUT TO
STICK IT
TO CRO-
MARTIE
ONCE AND
FOR ALL,
HUH? I
CAN'T
WAIT TO
GIVE 'EM
SOME OF
THIS!

AND WE COULD
NEVER...NO, WE
MUST NEVER
TAKE CENTER
STAGE. THAT
IS THE WAY OF
COMEDY.



STILL, IT'S
PROBABLY
FOR THE
BEST.



HE FINALLY COMES
TO HIS COMEDIC
SENSES, AND **THIS**
HAD TO HAPPEN. HE
CAN'T GET A SINGLE
LAUGH, IT'S JUST
TOO SAD.



I CAN'T DRAG
YOU DOWN, TOO.
YOU MUST WALK
ANOTHER PATH,
THE SAME PATH
AS EVERYONE
ELSE.



THE WAY OF
COMEDY CAN ONLY
LEAD TO RUIN.
DON'T THROW
YOUR LIFE AWAY,
ISHIKAWA--
THE CYCLE MUST
END WITH ME.

MY
HEAD?



I SAID, "GIVE IT
UP"! ENOUGH'S
ENOUGH ALREADY.
JUST TAKE THAT
THING OFF YOUR
HEAD!



HUH?

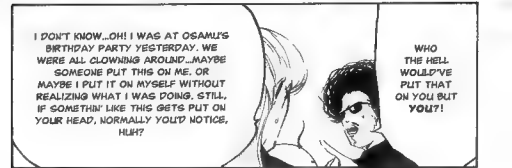
LOOK,
ISHIKAWA...
JUST GIVE
IT UP,
ALRIGHT?





YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW
YOU HAD
IT ON?

WHAT THE
HECK IS
THIS?!



I DON'T KNOW...OH! I WAS AT OSAMU'S
BIRTHDAY PARTY YESTERDAY. WE
WERE ALL CLOWNING AROUND...MAYBE
SOMEONE PUT THIS ON ME. OR
MAYBE I PUT IT ON MYSELF WITHOUT
REALIZING WHAT I WAS DOING. STILL,
IF SOMETHIN' LIKE THIS GETS PUT ON
YOUR HEAD, NORMALLY YOU'D NOTICE,
HUH?

WHO
THE HELL
WOULD'VE
PUT THAT
ON YOU BUT
YOU?!



I'M STARTING
TO NOT CARE
ANYMORE...

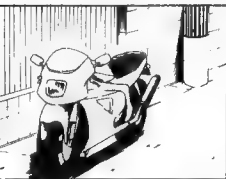
I CAN'T TAKE IT,
THIS IS JUST TOO
FUNNY! WAIT, DON'T
TELL ME HE'S DOING
ALL THIS JUST TO
MAKE ME LAUGH!
OR IS HE REALLY
THAT BIG OF AN
IDIOT?

THIS IS THE END--I CAN'T
LAUGH AT ANY MORE OF HIS
GAGS! WHAT IF IT GIVES HIM A
MISGUIDED SENSE OF CONFIDENCE
AND HE DECIDES HE WANTS TO BE
AN ENTERTAINER? IT WOULD BE
ALL MY FAULT!

NO, WAIT! I JUST
SWORE I WOULDN'T
TAKE HIM DOWN THE
SAME PATH
AS ME!



COULD IT BE I'M
WORRIED ABOUT
HAVING ISHIKAWA AS
MY COMEDIC RIVAL?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT! I
JUST DON'T WANT HIM
TO THROW HIS LIFE
AWAY! COMEDY IS NO
PROFESSION TO BE
RECOMMENDING
TO PEOPLE.



YEAH, I
THINK I'LL
DO THAT. I
GUESS I AM
KINDA TIRED.

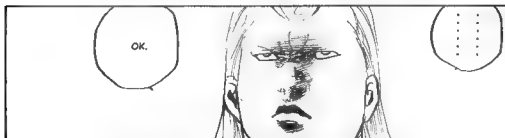
LOOK, I CAN
TELL YOU'RE
TIRED. YOU
SHOULD GO
HOME AND
REST.



OH,
WELL, BE
CAREFUL,
OK?

I RODE MY
BIKE TO
SCHOOL
TODAY.





YOU'RE
WEARING THAT
ON PURPOSE,
AREN'T YOU?!

SEE
YOU.

ISHIKAWA: COMEDIC TALENT ON THE RISE. MAYBE.

KIICHI FUJIMOTO (16).
LEADER OF THE 1ST YEARS
AT MANUEL HIGH SCHOOL.
AN EXCELLENT FIGHTER AND
A MASTER OF CGI, FUJIMOTO
IS A PC USER WITH A
DIFFERENCE



YEAH. APPARENTLY,
HE WAS PRETTY
ACTIVE BACK IN HIS
HOMETOWN. THEY
SAY IN A ONE-ON-
ONE FIGHT, HE'S
NOTHIN' TO FOOL
AROUND WITH.

YOU'VE
HEARD
OF HIM,
TOO?



WHOA,
HE IS?!

HEY, IT
LOOKS
LIKE THAT
TRANSFER
STUDENT'S
HERE.



WELL, LET'S
TELL HIM.

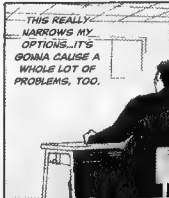
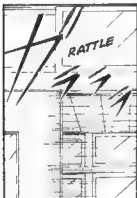
YEAH.



THE FIRST THING
WE GOTTA DO IS
INTRODUCE HIM
TO OUR BOSS,
FUJIMOTO.

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
FAMOUS
HE WAS OR
ANYTHING,
THOUGH.







CALL ME
SHIMADA.

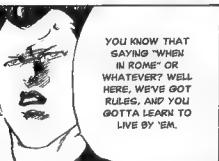


THAT'S
RIGHT.

YOU'RE
SHIMADA,
HUH?



YOU KNOW THAT
SAYING "WHEN
IN ROME" OR
WHATEVER? WELL
HERE, WE'VE GOT
RULES, AND YOU
GOTTA LEARN TO
LIVE BY 'EM.



I GUESS.



I HEARD OF
YOU. YOU
LIKED TO STIR
THINGS UP
BACK HOME,
DIDN'T YOU?

YOU'RE TOUGH, I'LL
GIVE YOU THAT.
BUT EVERYONE'S
GOT SOMEONE
THEY CAN
NEVER BEAT.



YEAH

THAT GUY
OVER THERE
IS FUJIMOTO,
OUR BOSS. YOU
KNOW ABOUT
HIM?





YOU KNOW WHAT
MAKES A GUY
TOUGH? IT'S NOT
JUST BEIN' STRONG--
IT'S KNOWING WHEN TO
REIN YOURSELF IN.

YOU START WINNING
ENOUGH FIGHTS,
YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF
GETTIN' A LITTLE TOO
CONFIDENT. THAT'S
WHEN YOU TAKE ON
MORE THAN YOU CAN
CHEW...AND YOU GET
YOUR ASS HANDED
TO YOU.



I GUESS I'LL
JUST HAVE TO
GO WITH DSL.



IF YOU CAN
KEEP THAT IN
MIND, I THINK
WE'LL GET
ALONG FINE.



WELL, WE'VE
GOT A LONG
WAYS AHEAD OF
US. LET'S TAKE
OUR TIME AND
GET TO KNOW
EACH OTHER,
SHIMADA.

HEY, THIS
GUY'S A
FIGHTER AND
A THINKER!

YEAH, I KNOW
ALL THAT.
I MAY BE A
THUG, BUT I'M
NOT AN IDIOT.

I CAN'T EVEN
INSTALL THE
DAMN MEMORY
JUST BOUGHT!

SHIMADA
MUST
REALLY BE
GETTIN' TO
HIM, HUH?

FUJIMOTO
LOOKS LIKE
HE'S STILL
IN A BAD
MOOD.

I GOT
BUSTED
POSING AS
SOMEBODY
ELSE
ONLINE,
SO I'VE
GOTTA
CHANGE
PRO-
VIDERS
AS FAST
AS I CAN.

YOU KNOW,
I WENT TO
MIDDLE
SCHOOL WITH
SHIMADA. I
COULD TELL
YOU ALL KINDS
OF STUFF
ABOUT HIM.

DID I BUY
MEMORY FOR
A MAC BY
MISTAKE?

HE'S
PROBABLY
GOT ALL
SORTS OF
PROBLEMS
WE CAN'T
RELATE TO.

WELL, HE
IS THE
BOSS.

THERE'S MORE
TO SHIMADA
THAN JUST
FIGHTING, YOU
KNOW. HE'S ALSO
REALLY GOOD AT
COMPUTERS.

MAN, I'M
GLAD. I
FEEL LIKE
WE'VE
JUST
MADE A
POWERFUL
NEW
FRIEND.

HA HA!
CUT
THAT
OUT.

IF YOU TRY
TALKIN' TO HIM,
YOU'LL SEE HE'S A
REALLY NICE GUY.
HE LOOKS ALL HARD
AND RUGGED, BUT
HE'S ACTUALLY
PRETTY SHY.

DUDE,
WE'VE
NEVER
EVEN SEEN
A COM-
PUTER!

THAT'S
AWE-
SOME!

I'M NOT A
PRO OR
ANYTHING.

COM-
PUTERS?!
ARE YOU
SERIOUS?



HE'S
GOOD AT
COMPUT-
ERS?!



COMPUT-
ERS...



COMPUTERS...



OF COURSE
NOT! DON'T
BE STUPID!

NO ONE AT
OUR SCHOOL
KNOWS HOW
TO USE A
COMPUTER,
RIGHT?



I DON'T
REALLY
UNDERSTAND
ALL THIS, BUT
IT SOUNDS
LIKE YOU'RE
ONE MANLY
MAN!

NAH.

THAT'S
AMAZING!



DON'T
PUT ME IN
THE SAME
CATEGORY
AS YOU!



YOU
SONS OF
BITCHES!



SURE.



YEAH. DO YOU
THINK YOU
COULD SHOW
IT TO US
SOMETIME?

WE'RE
REALLY
IMPRESSED,
SHIMADA.





SO WE'LL
JUST
PLACE IT
IN HERE.



WE DON'T
NEED
THIS ANY-
MORE...

I WANT TO GIVE THOSE
IDIOTS A PIECE OF MY
MIND, BUT IF I START GOIN'
AFTER ALL OF 'EM, IT COULD
DAMAGE MY POSITION. ARGH,
I CAN'T STAND LETTING
'EM CARRY ON ABOUT
COMPUTERS LIKE THIS!



THOSE DAMN
NEWS ARE GETTIN'
ALL WORKED UP
OVER NOTHING!
YOU ASK ME, THIS
IS JUST CRAZY!

HE COULD BE GOIN' OVER
STUFF THAT'S SIMPLE
ENOUGH FOR THESE
BOZOS TO UNDERSTAND,
BUT ACTUALLY KNOW
A LOT MORE. AND IF HE
KNOWS MORE THAN ME,
IT'S GONNA BECOME A
MATTER OF PRIDE.



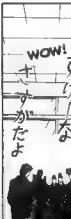
I'VE GOTTA
WATCH WHAT I
SAY, THOUGH.
I DON'T KNOW
HOW MUCH THIS
SHIMADA KNOWS.

HOW MANY
MEGAHERTZ
IS THAT
PROCESSOR?



FUJI-
MOTO?
WHAT
IS IT?

GOT
A MIN-
UTE?



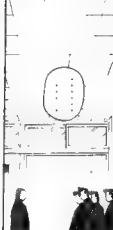


NOT TO BE RUDE, BUT RIGHT NOW WE'RE TALKIN' ABOUT ~~COMPUTERS~~. WOULD YOU MIND NOT CHANGING THE SUBJECT?



HM?

UH...



OH, BUT STILL, THAT'S AWESOME!

THAT'S ABOUT ALL I KNOW. I'M STILL LEARNING.



SHOW US SOMETHING ELSE!

SORRY, SHIMADA. THAT HAD NOthin' TO DO WITH WHAT WE WERE TALKIN' ABOUT.



YEAH!

NO, SHIMADA. IT'S GREAT!

I'M EMBARRASSED TO ADMIT I KNOW THIS STUFF...

WE'D ALL LIKE TO TRY, TOO!



HE'S STILL LEARNING?!



H-HE'S JUST AN AMATEUR! THE GUY DOESN'T KNOW A FRACTION OF WHAT I DO!

THOSE IDIOTS
WOULD PROBABLY
BE MORE IMPRESSED
IF I DID SOMETHIN'
ON SHIMADA'S
LEVEL...SOMETHIN'
EVEN THEY CAN
UNDERSTAND. THEN
THEY'D SEE ME
AS A MASTER OF
COMPUTERS.



THE PROBLEM
IS, THESE GUYS
DON'T KNOW
SQUAT ABOUT
COMPUTERS. I
COULD GET ALL
TECHNICAL WITH
'EM, BUT THEY
WOULDN'T HAVE
A CLUE WHAT I
WAS SAYING.

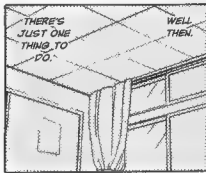


HUH?

HEY,
EVERYONE!
FUJI-
MOTO'S
CALLIN' US!



THE
NEXT
DAY



THERE'S
JUST ONE
THING TO
DO.

WELL
THEN.



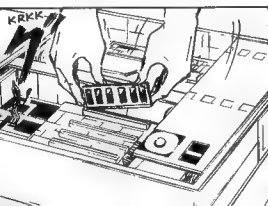
WH-
WHAT'S
GOIN'
ON?

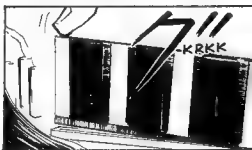
WHAT
IS
THAT?



JUST SHUT
UP AND
WATCH.







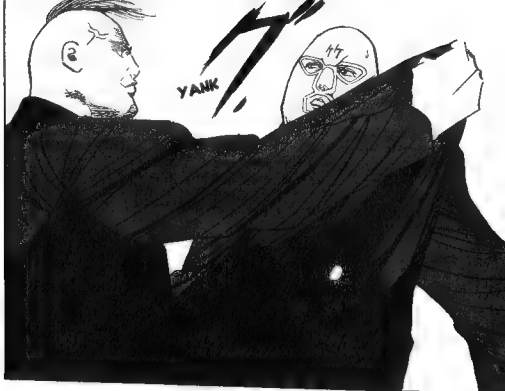
WHAT
ARE YOU
TRYIN' TO
DO?!

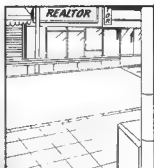
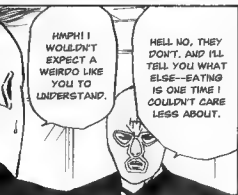
I...I CAN'T
GET IT IN.



MEMORY UPGRADE: INCOMPLETE.





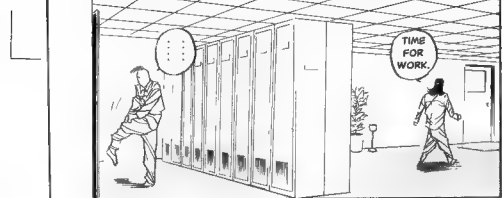




**CHANGING ROOM
(PART-TIMERS ONLY)**

ATTENTION PART-TIMERS:
Please remove necklaces
and all other accessories
before beginning your shift.





ATTENTION PART-TIMERS:
Please remove necklaces
and all other accessories
before beginning your shift.







NO,
THAT'S
NOT
NECESSARY.

AT LEAST
LET ME
BUY YOU
SOME
TEA TO
MAKE UP
FOR IT.

4x11
CHING

IT'S FINE,
REALLY.
ANYWAY,
THESE ARE
JUST WORK
CLOTHES.

OH, NO!
I'M SO
SORRY!
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?

YOU KNOW,
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE'VE WORKED
TOGETHER
THIS WHOLE
TIME WITHOUT
KNOWING EACH
OTHER'S NAMES.

WE
HAVEN'T
INTRO-
DUCED
OUR-
SELVES
YET, HAVE
WE?

UM...

HAYASHIDA...

HA HA! YOU'RE
PROBABLY
RIGHT. ANYWAY,
MY NAME'S
HAYASHIDA.

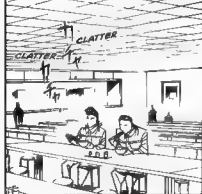
THAT'S HOW IT
IS WITH A LOT OF
PART-TIMERS, ISN'T
IT? IT'S HARD TO
FIND THE RIGHT
TIME TO INTRODUCE
YOURSELF.

SASU-
KE?

THAT'S WHY
HERE, THEY
CALL ME
SASUKE.

AAH, WELL, IT'S A
PRETTY COMMON
NAME. THERE ARE AT
LEAST THREE OTHER
HAYASHIDAS THAT
WORK HERE.

HAYASHIDA-
SAN, IS IT?
YOU KNOW,
THERE'S A
HAYASHIDA
THAT GOES
TO MY
SCHOOL.



WELL,
THAT'S
HOW IT
IS WITH
NICKNAMES.

YEAH, I'M NOT
REALLY SURE HOW
THAT NICKNAME
GOT STARTED. IT
JUST SORT OF
HAPPENED.

IT'S JUST
AN ALIAS,
THOUGH.

OH, I'M SORRY!
I COMPLETELY
FORGOT TO
ASK! WELL, IT'S
NICE TO FINALLY
MEET YOU.

BY THE
WAY, I'M
SUZUKI.

I CERTAINLY
APPRECIATE
IT. IT'S VERY
MATURE OF YOU,
HAYASHIDA-SAN.

WELL, I'M
SURE YOU
HAVE YOUR
REASONS.
DON'T WORRY.
I'M NOT GOING
TO PRY.

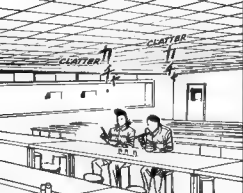
AN ALIAS...

AH, I
SUPPOSE
THAT MAKES
ME SLIGHTLY
OLDER.

HA HA!
SERIOUSLY,
FEEL FREE
TO CALL ME
SASUKE. AND
I'M A 1ST YEAR
IN HIGH SCHOOL.

BUT IF YOU'RE OLDER
THAN ME, IT WOULD
BE RUDE NOT TO
CALL YOU "-SAN." IF
YOU DON'T MIND MY
ASKING, HOW OLD
ARE YOU?

PLEASE,
JUST CALL
ME SASUKE.



REALLY?
WELL, I
GUESS I'LL
GIVE IT A
SHOT.

OH, YOU'RE
OLDER? THEN
PLEASE,
FEEL FREE
TO SPEAK
CASUALLY.



AAH, THERE'S
NOTHING I
ENJOY MORE
THAN SITTING
DOWN TO
EAT.



HA HA!
SUIT
YOUR-
SELF.



YOU KNOW, I THINK I'LL
STICK TO FORMALITIES,
IF YOU DON'T MIND.
AFTER ALL, WE JOINED
AT MORE OR LESS
THE SAME TIME, AND
HAVEN'T KNOWN EACH
OTHER VERY LONG.



QUITE
RIGHT.

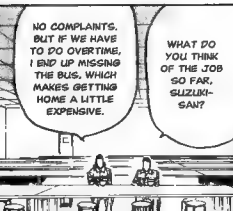
WELL, TO
EACH HIS
OWN.



ACTUALLY,
NO.



SOME TIMES
ARE JUST
SPECIAL.
DON'T YOU
THINK?

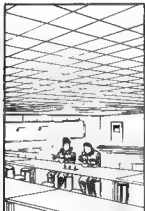


NO COMPLAINTS.
BUT IF WE HAVE
TO DO OVERTIME,
I END UP MISSING
THE BUS, WHICH
MAKES GETTING
HOME A LITTLE
EXPENSIVE.

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
OF THE JOB
SO FAR,
SUZUKI-
SAN?



SO...



I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT WHEN I FEEL LIKE QUITTING, I JUST QUIT. WHAT'S THE SHORTEST YOU'VE EVER WORKED AT A JOB?

YES, I AGREE.

I DON'T HAVE ANY REAL PROBLEMS, EITHER. OUR BOSS IS A LITTLE STRICT, THOUGH.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SASUKE-SAN?

WELL, ONE TIME I WENT ON MY LUNCH BREAK AND NEVER CAME BACK. I FELT RATHER BAD ABOUT THAT...

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

THE SHORTEST? MMM, I'VE QUIT AFTER TWO DAYS BEFORE.

SASUKE-SAN...IF YOU DECIDE TO QUIT THIS JOB, WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME?

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT. VERY WELL--EVEN IF I DON'T TELL THE BOSS, I'LL BE SURE TO TELL YOU.

I DON'T MIND. BESIDES, THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER JOBS OUT THERE. NOW THAT WE'VE MET AND HAVE STARTED TO GET ALONG, IT WOULD BE SAD IF ONE OF US WERE TO SUDDENLY QUIT, DON'T YOU THINK?

WHAT? BUT IF WE BOTH QUIT AT THE SAME TIME, I DON'T THINK THEY'D BE TOO HAPPY.

I'LL QUIT WITH YOU.



I HOPE YOU
DON'T MIND IF
I CHANGE THE
SUBJECT, BUT...



MY FRIEND
AND I GOT
INTO A
PRETTY BIG
FIGHT...

REALLY?
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT HAPPENED
TO ME AT MY
SCHOOL, TOO!

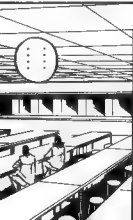
SOMETHING
HAPPENED AT MY
SCHOOL RECENTLY.
IT WAS SIMILAR
TO THAT INCIDENT
EARLIER, WHEN I
SPILLED YOUR TEA.

...

IN MY CASE, THE
OTHER PERSON
WAS ACTUALLY A
VERY NICE GUY. IN
FACT, I'D HAVE TO
SAY HE'S MY BEST
FRIEND IN THE
WHOLE SCHOOL.

I SEE. I SUPPOSE
WE'VE ALL BEEN
THROUGH SIMILAR
EXPERIENCES. IT
JUST SEEMS SO
FOOLISH NOW.

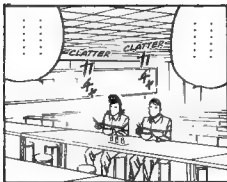
SAME HERE.
WE WERE BOTH
SO STUBBORN,
NEITHER OF US
WOULD BACK
DOWN.



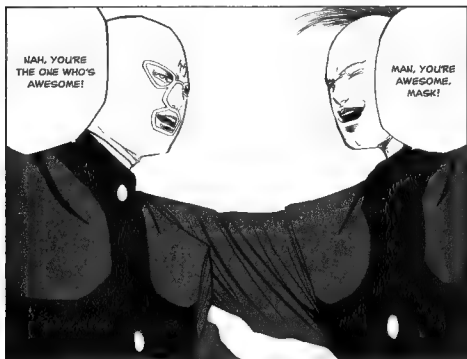
AS SOON AS
I SEE HIM
TOMORROW,
I'M GOING TO
APOLOGIZE.



THAT'S
WHY...



WHICH ONE OF THEM IS THE BIGGER IDIOT?

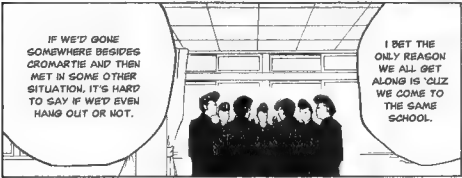




YEAH. I MEAN, I
GOT PEOPLE I CALL
FRIENDS, BUT NO
ONE I COULD SAY IS
A TRUE FRIEND.

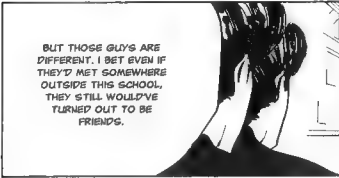


SEEN' THE
WAY THEY GET
ALONG MAKES
ME WISH I HAD
A FRIEND LIKE
THAT.



IF WE'D GONE
SOMEWHERE BESIDES
CROMARTIE AND THEN
MET IN SOME OTHER
SITUATION, IT'S HARD
TO SAY IF WE'D EVEN
HANG OUT OR NOT.

I BET THE
ONLY REASON
WE ALL GET
ALONG IS 'CUZ
WE COME TO
THE SAME
SCHOOL.

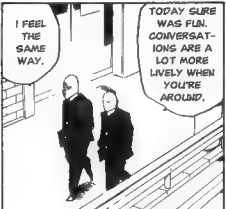


BUT THOSE GUYS ARE
DIFFERENT. I BET EVEN IF
THEY'D MET SOMEWHERE
OUTSIDE THIS SCHOOL,
THEY STILL WOULD'VE
TURNED OUT TO BE
FRIENDS.



HEH
HEH

HA
HA



I FEEL
THE
SAME
WAY.

TODAY SURE
WAS FUN.
CONVERSATIONS ARE A
LOT MORE
LIVELY WHEN
YOU'RE
AROUND.

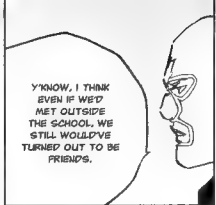


TAKE A
GOOD LOOK.
THAT'S REAL
FRIENDSHIP
RIGHT THERE.

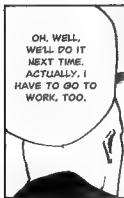
I'M
PRETTY
JEALOUS.



I THINK SO, TOO.
IF WE'D MET
SOMEWHERE ELSE,
I BET I WOULDN'T
HAVE MADE FRIENDS
WITH ANYONE
BUT YOU.



Y'KNOW, I THINK
EVEN IF WE'D
MET OUTSIDE
THE SCHOOL, WE
STILL WOULD'VE
TURNED OUT TO BE
FRIENDS.



OH, WELL,
WE'LL DO IT
NEXT TIME.
ACTUALLY, I
HAVE TO GO TO
WORK, TOO.



SORRY, I
CAN'T. I
HAVE TO GO
TO WORK.



GREAT IDEA!
HEY, LET'S
GO NOW!



WHAT DO
YOU SAY WE
GO GRAB
A DRINK
SOMETIME
SOON?



MOVERS, INC.



SEE
YOU.



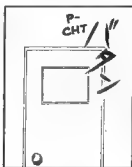
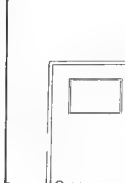
BYE.

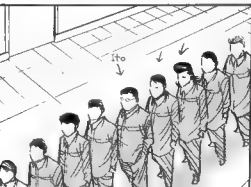
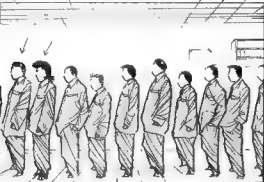


K-CHAK
H//
44



CHANGING ROOM
(PART-TIMERS ONLY)







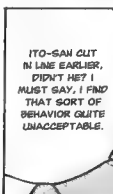
SASUKE-
SAN, MAY
I ASK YOU
SOMETHING?



YET IT WAS
YOU WHO
— TO
LET HIM IN
LINE.



YES. IT
CERTAINLY
LEAVES
SOMETHING
TO BE
DESIRED.



ITO-SAN CUT
IN LINE EARLIER,
DIDN'T HE? I
MUST SAY, I FIND
THAT SORT OF
BEHAVIOR QUITE
UNACCEPTABLE.



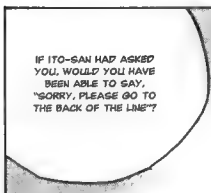
YES,
WHAT
IS IT?



I'M
NOT SO
SURE...



ITO-SAN IS
MY BOSS. I
CAN'T VERY
WELL SAY,
"SORRY, BUT
NO."



IF ITO-SAN HAD ASKED
YOU, WOULD YOU HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO SAY,
"SORRY, PLEASE GO TO
THE BACK OF THE LINE"?



WELL THEN,
ALLOW ME TO
POSE THIS
QUESTION
TO YOU.

THE THING IS, YOU CAN SAY THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW HIM. I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AM CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM THAT I ALREADY COUNT HIM AS A GOOD FRIEND. THAT MAKES THINGS SOMEWHAT HARDER, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

OH, YES, BUT I WOULD DO IT SUBTLY, IN A WAY THAT WOULDN'T CAUSE TROUBLE.

BUT CAN YOU TRULY CALL THEM FRIENDS? IS IT NECESSARY TO CODDLE ONE'S FRIENDS? A TRUE FRIEND SHOULD BE DEALT WITH STERNLY WHEN CALLED FOR.

YOU'LL PARDON ME IF I'M BEING BLUNT, BUT I HAVE MORE FRIENDS HERE THAN JUST YOU.

I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'VE ALREADY MADE MORE THAN A FEW ACQUAINTANCES.

AH, I'VE GONE TOO FAR. MY APOLOGIES.

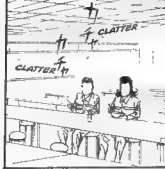
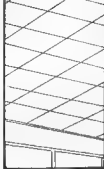
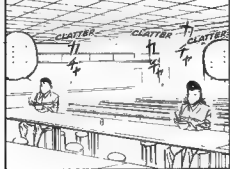
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. THIS MAY NOT BE THE BEST WAY OF PUTTING IT, BUT I'M THE ONLY FRIEND YOU'VE MADE HERE, AREN'T I?

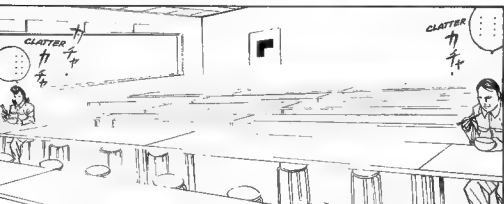
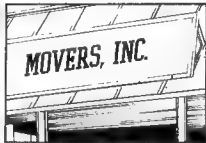
HMPH, NOW YOU'VE SHOWN YOUR TRUE COLORS, HAVEN'T YOU? FOR ALL YOUR TALK OF DROPPING THE FORMALITIES, YOU BECOME DEFENSIVE WHEN I DO SO. AS OF NOW, WE ARE STRANGERS--WE SHOULD HAVE NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER.

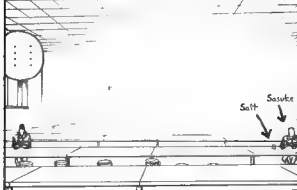
SORRY, BUT WOULD YOU MIND NOT CALLING ME THAT?

"-KUN"?!

YOU'VE CHANGED, SASUKE-KUN.





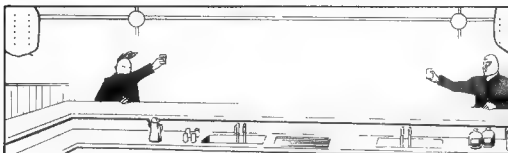




RESTAURANT & BAR

YOU SAID
IT! LET'S
DRINK
TO OUR
FRIENDSHIP!

ALRIGHT,
LET'S DO
IT UP!



YEAH...

WHY ARE
WE SITTING
SO FAR
APART?

THEY'LL PROBABLY NEVER FIGURE IT OUT.

My Dream for the Future By Takashi Kamiyama

My dream for the future is to become an upstanding member of society. There is much suffering in this world, and I want to be able to help. To do that, I think I should become a government official. The people's taxes would pay for my salary, so I in turn could work for the people. It also looks like a job where I could occasionally slack off, which is another reason for me to try it.





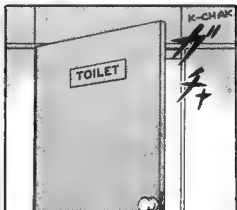
Writings From
Elementary
School

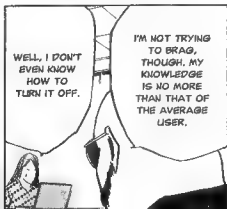
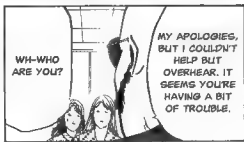
What I want to be
when I grow up
By Shinjiro Hayashida

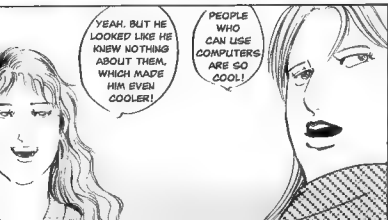
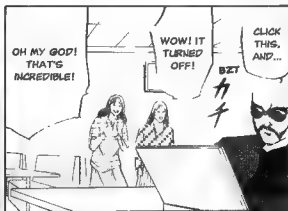
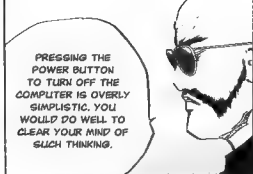
When I grow up, I want to be a frog. By the way, a frog is a reptile. I like frogs because they can jump through the air, like poink poink. When tadpoles get bigger, they turn into frogs.

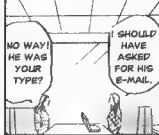
The end.

CHAPTER 197: CRUSH ON YOU

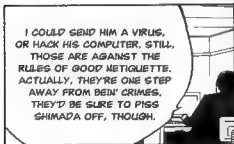












WHY AM I
GETTIN' SO
WORKED UP
OVER AN
AMATEUR?

ACTUAL-
LY...

...

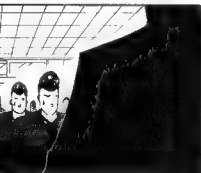


WHEN IT
COMES TO
COMPUTERS!

IT'S TIME
TO ONCE
AND FOR ALL
SETTLE THE
QUESTION
OF WHICH
ONE OF
US IS
STRONGER...

THERE'S NO
NEED TO LET IT
GET TO ME. THE
GUY'S NOTHING.
HE CAN'T EVEN
COME CLOSE!

What's a
Proxy Servo



TELL HIM
TO MEET ME
BEHIND THE
GYM.

CALL
SHIMADA.





I'M SETTLEIN' THIS
MAN TO MAN, JUST
HIM AND ME. YOU
BASTARDS BETTER
NOT GET INVOLVED.

ALRIGHT,
LISTEN UP.



THIS IS A BATTLE
BETWEEN MEN. IF
I LOSE, THAT'S
THAT. DON'T GO
AROUND TRYIN' TO
MAKE EXCUSES
FOR ME.



ONE
MORE
THING.

OK.



UNTIL I SAY SO,
NONE OF YOU ARE
ALLOWED TO USE
A COMPUTER,
PERIOD.



ONE
MORE
THING.

OK.



THAT'S ALL
I WANTED
TO SAY. I'M
GOIN' NOW.

OK.



RATTLE



FIRST, THIS
IS BETWEEN
FUJIMOTO AND
SHIMADA. WE
CAN'T GO GETTIN'
INVOLVED.



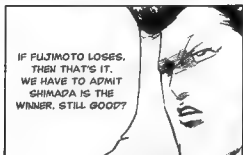
LET'S
GO
OVER
IT REAL
QUICK.

YEAH, OF
COURSE.

DID YOU
ALL HEAR
WHAT
FUJIMOTO
SAID?



HEY.



IF FUJIMOTO LOSES,
THEN THAT'S IT.
WE HAVE TO ADMIT
SHIMADA IS THE
WINNER. STILL GOOD?



NEXT...

YEAH,
GOT IT.

Makes
sense.



NONE OF US CAN
USE A COMPUTER
TILL FUJIMOTO
SAYS SO.



FINALLY...

YEAH,
GOT IT.

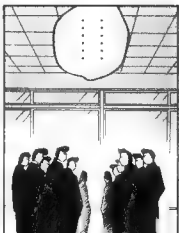
That's
Fujimoto
for ya.



YOU DON'T
GET IT,
EITHER? I WAS
GONNA ASK
YOU ABOUT IT
LATER!

YOU,
TOO?

I TOTALLY
DON'T UNDER-
STAND!





I'M THE ONE WHO
CALLS THE SHOTS
AROUND HERE. I'M THE
GUY AT THE TOP, AND
THERE'S ONLY ROOM
FOR ONE AT THE TOP.



SHIMADA.



HOW MUCH DO
YOU REALLY
KNOW ABOUT
COMPUTERS?!



SO I'LL
COME
RIGHT OUT
AND ASK
YOU...



YEAH.

HMPH. IT'S HARD TO
TELL. YOU COULD
JUST AS EASILY BE
PRETENDIN' TO BE AN
AMATEUR. LET'S CUT
TO THE FRICKIN' CHASE.



...IT'S
NO BIG
DEAL,
REALLY.

YOU ACT ALL
BIG, BUT IT'S
ALWAYS IN FRONT
OF PEOPLE WHO
DON'T KNOW
SQUAT.



HLIH?



NO, NOT IN
A FRIGGIN'
FIGHT! WE'RE
TALKIN' ABOUT
COMPUTERS.
DAMMIT! ARE
YOU EVEN
LISTENING?!

WHAT,
IN A
FIGHT?

WHAT'S
SOMETHIN'
YOU'VE GOT
THAT NO ONE
COULD EVER
BEAT? LIKE A
TECHNIQUE OR
SOMETHIN'.

WELL I HAVE. AND I'M
NOT TRYIN' TO BRAG
OR ANYTHING, BUT
I'VE GOT A PRETTY
GOOD HANDLE ON
CGI, TOO.

I'VE
NEVER
EVEN
SET UP
A FORUM
BEFORE.

I DON'T
THINK
I'VE GOT
ANYTHING
LIKE THAT...

HUH?

WAIT
HERE.

WHAT-
EVER,
SHOW
ME.

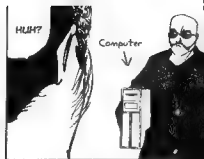
HMM...THERE
IS ONE THING
I CAN DO. I
WOULDN'T SAY
I'M ESPECIALLY
GOOD AT IT,
THOUGH.

HM?

I'M
BACK.

YOU'RE FULL OF
YOURSELF NOW,
BUT I'M ABOUT
TO KNOCK YOU
DOWN TO SIZE,
SHIMADA.

IT'S PROBABLY
JUST GONNA BE
HOW TO SHUT
DOWN YOUR
COMPUTER
OR SOMETHIN'
LIKE THAT.



HE WOULDN'T HAVE LUGGED THAT THING FROM HOME, THOUGH.

CHAPTER 198: **WON'T BE LONG**





SORRY,
SIR. THERE
WERE
SEVERAL
DELIVER-
IES WE
HAD
TO DO
FIRST.

YOU'RE A LITTLE
LATE, DON'T YOU
THINK? THIS WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE
DELIVERED THIS
MORNING. IT'S
ALREADY 5:00!



IT WILL BE
OUR PLEASURE!
AT PONCE
ELECTRONICS,
YOU GET MORE
THAN JUST
A DELIVERY--
YOU GET FREE
INSTALLATION!

YOU'LL GET IT
UP FOR ME,
WON'T YOU?!
PLEASE! I'M NOT
TOO GOOD WITH
ELECTRONICS. AND
THESE MODERN
APPLIANCES
ARE JUST SO
COMPLICATED...



IT'S A DRAMA CALLED
THE WHITE GRAPE,
AND TONIGHT'S THE
SERIES FINALE! I
HAVEN'T MISSED A
SINGLE EPISODE!

GOOD. NOW
PLEASE HURRY!
THERE'S A
PROGRAM THAT
COMES ON AT
7:00 THAT I HAVE
TO WATCH!

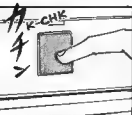
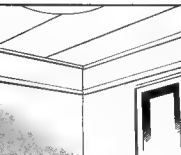


TWO HOURS LATER

REALLY?
THAT'S
EXCELLENT,
THANKS.

YES, WE'LL
BE DONE
WITH TIME
TO SPARE.

7:00? THAT
STILL LEAVES
US TWO
HOURS. THAT'S
MORE THAN
ENOUGH TIME.



I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE FINAL EPISODE ON A BIG-SCREEN TV, BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW?! MY ENTIRE DAY'S BEEN WASTED!

I'VE NEVER BEEN TREATED THIS WAY IN MY LIFE! I TOOK THE DAY OFF FROM WORK AND HAVE BEEN WAITING AROUND SINCE MORNING FOR YOU PEOPLE!



THAT'S IT! I WILL NEVER SHOP HERE AGAIN!

AT YOUR INTERVIEW, YOU SAID YOU HAD NO PROBLEM SETTING UP ELECTRONICS!

SORRY, SIR, IT WAS JUST SO HARD TO CONNECT EVERYTHING.

THIS IS QUITE A COMPLAINT. WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

HMM.

ANYWAY, AT THIS COMPANY, NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN TRUST! TRY PUTTING YOURSELF IN THE CUSTOMER'S SHOES. WHY DON'T YOU?! NOW GO APOLOGIZE, AND DO IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT.

"THESE MODERN TVS"?! HOW THE HELL OLD ARE YOU?! QUIT TALKING LIKE SOME GUY IN HIS 50S!

BUT THESE MODERN TVS ARE SO DIFFERENT...

IT WOULD BE EASY, BUT IF WE DID THAT, IT WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT THAN BEFORE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? SHOULD WE QUIT?

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, ONE OF THE REASONS WE WERE LATE WAS THAT THE BOSS GOT THE DISPATCH ALL WRONG.

SPLASH

PUT OURSELVES IN HIS SHOES? WELL, WE HAVE TO THINK LIKE HIM.

ALRIGHT, LET'S DO IT. BUT HOW DO WE PUT OURSELVES IN THAT CUSTOMER'S SHOES AND APOLOGIZE LIKE WE MEAN IT?

I THINK QUITTING WHEN THINGS GET TOUGH IS A BAD HABIT TO FALL INTO. WHAT DO YOU SAY WE STICK IT OUT A LITTLE LONGER?

WELL, I'D ASK AROUND AMONG MY FRIENDS WHO LIKE THOSE SORTS OF DRAMAS. HOPEFULLY ONE OF THEM RECORDED IT.

SO WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?

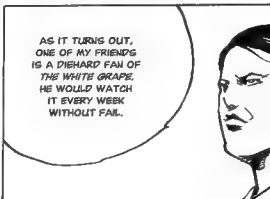
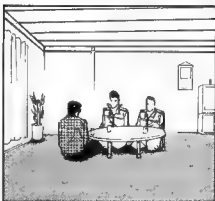
HUH. IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, IT DOES GET YOU PRETTY ANGRY.

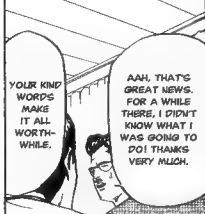
THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO CONSIDER HOW WE WOULD FEEL IF WE'D MISSED A PROGRAM WE'D BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO.

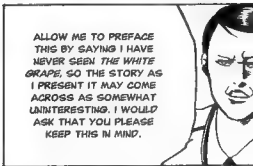
YOU HAVE FRIENDS WHO LIKE THOSE SORTS OF ~~ENTERTAINMENT~~

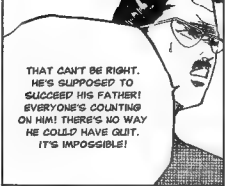
HUH? SOME WHAT?

YOU HAVE SOME?







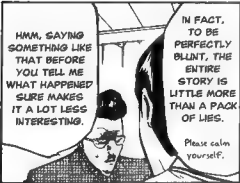


THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.
HE'S SUPPOSED TO
SUCCEED HIS FATHER!
EVERYONE'S COUNTING
ON HIM! THERE'S NO WAY
HE COULD HAVE QUIT.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



WHAT?!
TOSHIO
QUIT HIS
JOB?

ANYWAY,
HE QUIT
HIS JOB.



HMM, SAYING
SOMETHING LIKE
THAT BEFORE
YOU TELL ME
WHAT HAPPENED
SURE MAKES
IT A LOT LESS
INTERESTING.

IN FACT,
TO BE
PERFECTLY
BLUNT, THE
ENTIRE
STORY IS
LITTLE MORE
THAN A PACK
OF LIES.

Please calm
yourself.



TRUE, I
GUESS I'M
JUST OVER-
ANALYZING
THINGS.

IMPOSSIBLE?
BUT THIS IS A
DRAMA. IT'S
MAKE-BELIEVE.



AFTER HE
QUITS HIS
JOB...



OK, SO
TOSHIO
QUITS
HIS JOB.
THEN
WHAT?

IF YOU
INSIST.



WAIT! YOU CAN'T
JUST STOP IN
MID-STORY! IT'LL
DRIVE ME CRAZY!
PLEASE, TELL ME
THE REST!

IN THAT
CASE, IF
YOU'LL
EXCUSE US.

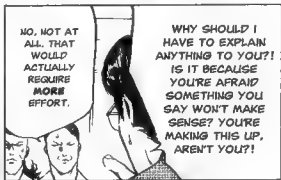


TOSHIO'S FATHER IS A CHEF AT
A FRENCH RESTAURANT! TOSHIO
HIMSELF WAS ABOUT TO GO TO
FRANCE TO STUDY COOKING! WHY
WOULD HE SUDDENLY GET A PART-
TIME JOB AT AN ELECTRONICS
STORE?! I'VE HEARD OF CHANGING
CAREERS BEFORE, BUT THIS IS
RIDICULOUS!



NOW
HOLD ON
JUST A
MINUTE!

HE
STARTS
WORKING
PART-
TIME IN
AN ELEC-
TRONICS
STORE.





YOU'RE MAKING
THIS UP AS
YOU GO ALONG!
YOU'VE BEEN
PLAYING ME
FOR A FOOL,
HAVEN'T YOU?!



AH, NOW
THAT YOU
MENTION
IT, IT DOES
SEEM THAT
WAY.

WAIT A
MINUTE! THIS
IS THE STORY
OF YOU TWO
JOKERS!



OUT,
DAMN
YOU!

VERY
WELL.



SHUT YOUR
MOUTH! GET
OUT AND
NEVER COME
BACK!

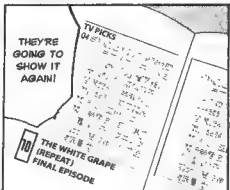
PLEASE,
THAT WAS
NOT OUR
INTENTION.



I CAN'T
BELIEVE THOSE
ASSHOLES! THEY
SURE PULLED
A NUMBER ON
ME. I'M SUCH
AN IDIOT.



I'M SO GLAD I
SAW THIS! AND IT
STARTS IN FIVE
MINUTES! THANK
GOD FOR SMALL
MIRACLES!



THEY'RE
GOING TO
SHOW IT
AGAIN!

TV PICKS
04:30 PM
THE WHITE GRAPE
(REPEAT)
FINAL EPISODE

The White Grape
Final Episode

WELL, TIME
TO START
WATCHING!

GO
PIP



YOU KNOW
WHAT? NOW
YOU'RE A MAN.

TOSHIO.

IT'S
JUST
LIKE HE
SAID!

HURRY
UP AND
FINISH,
WILL
YOU?!

I THINK SO,
TOO. WORKING
AT THE
ELECTRONICS
STORE IS A
MUCH BETTER
FIT FOR YOU.

YEAH, NOT
~~BECOMING~~
A CHEF
WAS THE
RIGHT
DECISION.

I'D LIKE TO WATCH A SHOW LIKE THAT.

CHAPTER 199: DON'T LET ME DOWN



WELL, SO
LONG AS YOU
UNDERSTAND
NOW, THAT'S ALL
THAT MATTERS.

I REALLY
AM SORRY
ABOUT THE
OTHER DAY.
EVERYTHING
YOU SAID
WAS TRUE.

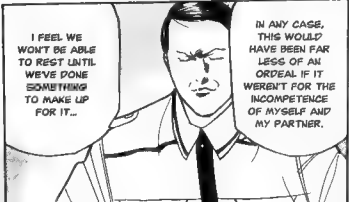


YES, THE TURN OF
EVENTS IN THAT LAST
EPISODE DID SEEM
RATHER SUSPICIOUS.
STILL, THIS IS COMING
FROM SOMEONE WHO
DOESN'T WATCH A LOT
OF DRAMAS.

IT'S JUST...
I MUST SAY, I
WAS A LITTLE
DISSATISFIED
WITH THE
ENDING.



NO, DON'T
TROUBLE
YOURSELF. IT'S
WATER UNDER
THE BRIDGE.



I FEEL WE
WON'T BE ABLE
TO REST UNTIL
WE'VE DONE
SOMETHING
TO MAKE UP
FOR IT...

IN ANY CASE,
THIS WOULD
HAVE BEEN FAR
LESS OF AN
ORDEAL IF IT
WEREN'T FOR THE
INCOMPETENCE
OF MYSELF AND
MY PARTNER.

UH, THAT'S
FINE. I'VE
ALREADY GOT
A WASHING
MACHINE.

Electronics
Catalog

AS COMPENSATION,
WE'D LIKE TO OFFER
YOU OUR LATEST
MODEL OF WASHING
MACHINE, ON SALE
NOW AT 20% OFF,
FOR THE REDUCED
PRICE OF 30% OFF.

ACTUALLY,
WE'RE NOT EVEN
SURE HOW WE
COULD MAKE IT
UP TO YOU.

SORRY ABOUT
THAT, SIR. OUR
BOSS HAS
BEEN AFTER US
PRETTY HARD
ABOUT OUR
SALES THIS
MONTH.

YOU KNOW,
THAT SOUNDED
MORE LIKE A
SALES PITCH
THAN AN
APOLOGY.

THE WHITE
GRAPE WASN'T
THE ONLY SHOW
I MISSED THAT
DAY.

MMM,
WELL,
THERE
IS ONE
THING.

IF THERE'S
ANYTHING
WE CAN
DO...

BIG OL' BOOM.

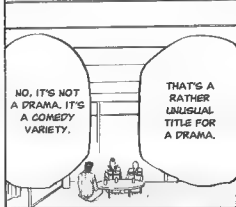
YES. BIG
OL' BOOM.

OH!
THERE WAS
ANOTHER
ONE?



I WOULDN'T SAY I'M CRAZY ABOUT THEM OR ANYTHING, BUT...WELL, THEY'RE RATHER POPULAR THESE DAYS, SO I THOUGHT I'D GIVE IT A TRY.

OH, YOU LIKE THOSE KINDS OF SHOWS AS WELL, DO YOU?



NO, IT'S NOT A DRAMA. IT'S A COMEDY VARIETY.

THAT'S A RATHER UNUSUAL TITLE FOR A DRAMA.



OH, NO. WHEN YOU HAVE TO **EXPLAIN** COMEDY, NONE OF THE HUMOR COMES THROUGH. IT JUST FALLS FLAT.

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO DO LIKE LAST TIME AND EXPLAIN EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED!



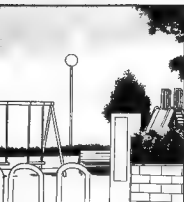
LEAVE IT TO US. WE'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.



BUT YOU SAID YOU'RE NOT SO CLOSE WITH HIM, RIGHT? WOULD HE EVEN LET YOU BORROW IT?



LUCKILY, THE PERSON I TALKED TO ABOUT THE **WHITE GRAPE** IS ALSO A BIG FAN OF COMEDY. I'M SURE HE RECORDED IT.



YES, THAT DOES SOUND PROMISING! PLEASE ASK HIM!

HE SAID HE WANTS TO "SPREAD COMEDY AROUND THE WORLD," SO I'M SURE THAT THIS TIME IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM.

YEAH, HE'S
REALLY PARTICULAR.
ACCORDING TO HIM,
BIG OL' BOOM IS
BORING AND ANYONE
WHO WATCHES IT
HAS NO COMEDIC
SENSE.

WHAT?!
THE GUY'S
A BIG
COMEDY
FAN BUT
HE DIDN'T
RECORD
IT?

NO, IT
LOOKS LIKE
HE DIDN'T
RECORD IT.

SO, DID
YOU
GET IT
FROM
HIM?

KEEP
OFF THE
GRASS

WELL, HE DIDN'T
RECORD BIG OL'
BOOM, BUT HE SAYS
HE SAW IT. HE REALLY
IS INTO COMEDY, SO
HE WATCHES IT EVEN
THOUGH HE THINKS
IT'S BORING.

WE
CAN'T
SWITCH
SHOWS
LIKE
THAT!

WARRIORS
OF COMEDY
THE HITS

HE LENT ME
THIS INSTEAD.
APPARENTLY IT'S
THE FUNNIEST
THING EVER.

HMM, THERE IS
ONE GUY WHO
SEEMS LIKE HE
MIGHT BE. I'LL ASK
HIM TOMORROW.

SUZUKI-
SAN, ARE
ANY OF
YOUR
FRIENDS
INTO
COMEDY?

WAIT, YOU'RE
GOING TO TRY
EXPLAINING
IT TO THAT
CUSTOMER
AGAIN?!

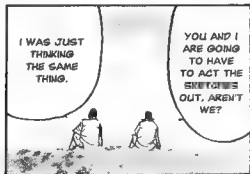
SO I HAD
HIM TELL
ME WHAT
HAPPENED.

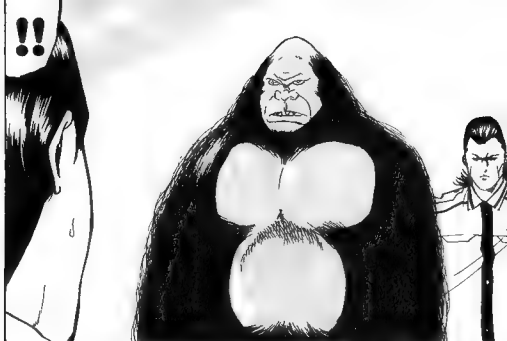
NAH, NO
WAY.

ARE YOU
INTO
COMEDY?

HAYA-
SHIDA, DO
YOU HAVE
A MINUTE?







TELL 'EM THE TRUTH, GORILLA.

CHAPTER 200: **CAN'T GET ANYTHING**



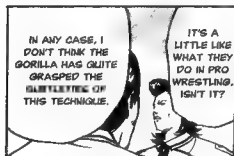




AND THIS IS THE IMPORTANT PART, AS YOU'RE ABOUT TO HIT HIM, YOU DROP THE SPEED AND JUST SORT OF SLAP HIM.



YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WHIP OUT YOUR ARM, BUT RIGHT BEFORE YOU MAKE CONTACT...



IN ANY CASE, I DON'T THINK THE GORILLA HAS QUITE GRASPED THE ESSENCE OF THIS TECHNIQUE.

IT'S A LITTLE LIKE WHAT THEY DO IN PRO WRESTLING. ISN'T IT?



SEE? BUT YOU REALLY WORK THE SLAP, SO IT MAKES A NICE, LOUD SOUND.

OH, I GET IT! YES, THAT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL!

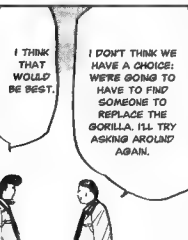


OK, LIKE I SAID...



SURE. I'LL EXPLAIN IT AND WE CAN TRY AGAIN.

WELL, WOULD YOU MIND GOING OVER IT AGAIN, THIS TIME WITH HIM?



I DON'T THINK WE HAVE A CHOICE: WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE TO REPLACE THE GORILLA. I'LL TRY ASKING AROUND AGAIN.

I THINK THAT WOULD BE BEST.



SORRY. THIS DOES LOOK A LITTLE DANGEROUS...

HEY, ARE YOU TRYING TO GET ME KILLED?!



HUH?
DON'T
BE AN
IDIOT.

YOU WANNA
ACT OUT A
COMIC SKIT
WITH ME?



HEY, MASK.



WAIT!
SASUKE-
SAN, LOOK
AT THAT!



I GUESS WE
HAVE TO
GIVE UP ON
PERFORMING
THESE SKITS
THEN.



I'M NOT
~~SURE~~.
IF SOMEONE
SUDDENLY
ASKED ME,
I'D SAY NO,
TOO.

KEEP
OFF THE
GRASS

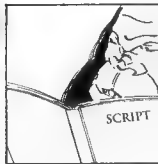
HE
SAID
NO.



I MAY HAVE
~~BEEN~~ ~~WRONG~~
I'VE BEEN
CALLING HIM
AN AMATEUR,
BUT WE ARE
AMATEURS,
TOO.



TH-THE
GORILLA'S
~~WRAP~~
THE SCRIPT!

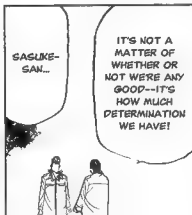


SCRIPT



YES! IT'S
TIME TO GET
BACK TO
PRACTICING!

OK! WHAT
DO YOU SAY
WE RECRUIT
THE GORILLA
AGAIN?



SASUKE-
SAN...

IT'S NOT A
MATTER OF
WHETHER OR
NOT WE'RE ANY
GOOD--IT'S
HOW MUCH
DETERMINATION
WE HAVE!

TWO
HOURS
LATER

WE'VE GOTTEN SO GOOD THAT AT ONE POINT, I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO START HOLDING MY SIDES AND LAUGHING!

ALRIGHT, IT'S PERFECT! WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT WE COULD WORK SO WELL TOGETHER?

LOOK AT HOW HARD WE'VE WORKED AND HOW FAR WE'VE COME!

WHAT ARE YOU HAVING DOUBTS FOR?!

DO YOU THINK HE'LL GET IT?

THEN ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO DO THIS.

YES?

YOU'RE RIGHT. OK, LET'S DO OUR BEST!

IF WE DO OUR BEST, I'M SURE OUR SINCERITY WILL COME THROUGH.

BUT HAVE NO FEAR! WE WILL REENACT THAT PROGRAM FOR YOU!

WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT WE WEREN'T ABLE TO GET YOU THE VIDEOTAPE.



OH MY GOD!
THERE'S A
GORILLA OUT
HERE!

PEOPLE
DON'T
USUALLY
GO AROUND
WITH
GORILLAS,
DO THEY?

OH, JEEZ.
THAT'S
RIGHT.

LOOKS LIKE NONE OF THE GORILLA'S SINCERITY WILL BE COMING THROUGH.

MY DREAM FOR THE FUTURE

BY TAKESHI HOKUTO

IN THE FUTURE, I WISH TO STAND AT THE FOREFRONT OF JAPAN'S POPULACE, MANIPULATING THE MASSES TO FOLLOW MY EVERY WHIM. THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE: THOSE WHO RULE AND THOSE WHO ARE RULED. NATURALLY, I AM OF THE FORMER. I MUST STUDY HARD IN ORDER TO BECOME AN EVEN MORE EXCELLENT SPECIMEN OF HUMANITY. THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO, NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRY, SHALL FOREVER AMOUNT TO NOTHING. I MUST EXERT GREATER EFFORT TO THINK OF WAYS IN WHICH THESE PEOPLE CAN BE CONTROLLED.

Writings From
Elementary
School

UGH. WHO'D WANT A CHILD LIKE THAT?

HM. I SEE THAT, FOR THE MOST PART, I REMAIN UNCHANGED. NO WONDER I WAS CALLED A CHILD PRODIGY.

MAN, THIS
TAKES ME BACK. OH,
THAT'S RIGHT! THIS
WAS AROUND THE
TIME I THOUGHT OF
THE STAGE NAME
"SALTY TARO."
HEH HEH.



Writings From
Elementary
School

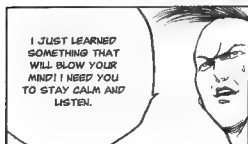
When I Grow Up By Noboru Yamaguchi

I love listening to the radio. I especially like late night radio shows. If my mom finds me listening to them, she gets mad and says, "Hurry up and go to bed!" So now I bury myself under the covers and listen to them on my headphones. But if it's a really funny joke, sometimes I'll laugh out loud and she'll catch me.

When I grow up, I want to be on those kinds of radio shows. I want to make a show where I start things off with, "Hurry, are you all listening out there?"

I can't wait for the day when I can make people explode with laughter.

CHAPTER 201: **ALL TOGETHER NOW**



N-NO
WAY!

THESE
KINDS OF
DELINQUENTS
DON'T EXIST
ANYMORE.

Caution

Needlessly
oversized →
pompadour

Over sized
jacket

Perm
Gang
uniform
↓
Over
sized
pants

THINK REAL HARD--
HAVE YOU SEEN
ANYONE LOOKIN'
LIKE THAT OUT ON
THE STREETS?

YEAH!
THIS AIN'T
FUNNY,
HAYA-
SHIDA.

THAT
CAN'T
BE
RIGHT!

WAIT A MINUTE. IF
WE DON'T LOOK LIKE
BADASSES. THEN
WHAT DO PEOPLE
THINK WHEN THEY
SEE US?

YOU SEE?!
WE'RE BEHIND
THE TIMES!

YEAH, I
GUESS
NOT.



WE MAY HAVE, LIKE, MORALITY ISSUES, BUT WE'RE NOT IGNORANT! WE'VE GOT STREET SMARTS!

IGNORANT? MAN, THAT HURTS.

WHAT?! THAT'S TERRIBLE!

A BUNCH OF IGNORANT WEIRDOS WHO AREN'T RIGHT IN THE HEAD.



WELL, I'D HAVE TO SAY WE LOOK LIKE...



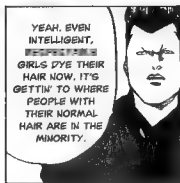
THESE ARE SOME AMBIGUOUS TIMES!

HUH?!

SEE, THAT'S THE THING. THEY **DON'T** LOOK ANY DIFFERENT. THEY'RE JUST... NORMAL.



FINE, THEN LET ME ASK YOU THIS: WHAT DOES YOUR MODERN-DAY BADASS LOOK LIKE?



YEAH. EVEN INTELLIGENT, ~~PEOPLE~~ GIRLS DYE THEIR HAIR NOW, IT'S GETTIN' TO WHERE PEOPLE WITH THEIR NORMAL HAIR ARE IN THE MINORITY.



COME TO THINK OF IT, EVEN NORMAL PEOPLE DYE THEIR HAIR AND GET PIERCINGS THESE DAYS. I GUESS YOU CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BADASSES AND THE REGULAR GUYS ANYMORE.



THAT'S RIGHT! AND STANDIN' OUT IS THE DUTY OF ANY TRUE BADASS! WE SHOULD ALL TRY IT TOMORROW!

ANYONE WHO COMBS HIS HAIR IN THE OLD "BUSINESSMAN'S PART" WOULD ACTUALLY STAND OUT!



SO THAT MEANS...



IF WE ALL WENT
OUT TOGETHER,
I BET PEOPLE
WOULD GET SO
SCARED THAT
NO ONE WOULD
COME NEAR US!

YEAH, I
GELLED THIS
BAD BOY
INTO PLACE
BEFORE I
CAME TO
SCHOOL.

YOU'RE ALL
STILL PARTIN'
YOUR HAIR LIKE
THAT, HUH?
IT LOOKS LIKE
YOU'RE REALLY
RUNNIN' WITH
THIS.

THOSE ASSHOLES
HAVE REALLY BEEN
PUSHIN' THEIR LUCK
LATELY. I SAY WE
GO OVER THERE
AND WHAM, WE
STICK IT TO 'EM!

LET'S
DO IT!

ALRIGHT! WHAT
DO YOU SAY WE
HEAD OVER TO
BASS AND GET
THOSE SONS OF
BITCHES?!

WELL, WE'VE TAKEN
CARE OF LOOKIN'
IGNORANT, BUT...
WE HAVEN'T DONE
ANYTHING ABOUT THE
"WEIRDO" PART.

DOES SOMETHIN'
SEEM ODD TO
YOU? I FEEL LIKE
WE'RE DOING
SOMETHIN'
WRONG...

HOLD
ON A
SECOND.



WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

LISTEN TO YOURSELVES! WHAT ARE YOU, A BUNCH OF IDIOTS?



IT'S LIKE TRYING TO STAND OUT JUST ENDS UP MAKIN' YOU WEIRD. WE HAVE TO GET WITH THE TIMES--WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DYE OUR HAIR AND GET PIERCINGS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

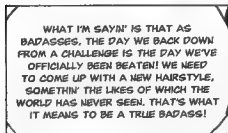


BUT IF WE CAN'T PART OUR HAIR LIKE THIS AND WE CAN'T USE OUR OLD HAIRSTYLE, WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO? OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO DYE IT, RIGHT?

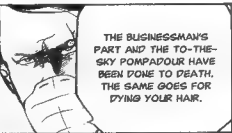
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.



BADASSES HAVE ALWAYS STOOD APART FROM THE CROWD. WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL! WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU WANNA TRY TO BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?!



WHAT I'M SAYIN' IS THAT AS BADASSES, THE DAY WE BACK DOWN FROM A CHALLENGE IS THE DAY WE'VE OFFICIALLY BEEN BEATEN! WE NEED TO COME UP WITH A NEW HAIRSTYLE, SOMETHIN' THE LIKES OF WHICH THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN. THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A TRUE BADASS!



THE BUSINESSMAN'S PART AND THE TO-THE-SKY POMPADOUR HAVE BEEN DONE TO DEATH. THE SAME GOES FOR DYING YOUR HAIR.



FINE, SO EVERYONE GOES HOME AND THINKS OF A NEW HAIRSTYLE BY TOMORROW. HOW'S THAT?

YEAH! TALKIN' AS A GROUP WON'T ALLOW OUR INDIVIDUALITY TO COME THROUGH!



FORGET IT! IF WE TALK ABOUT THIS WITH ONE ANOTHER, IT'LL STIFLE OUR CREATIVITY! WE'VE GOTTA THINK ABOUT THIS ON OUR OWN!

WE'LL HAVE TO GET TOGETHER AND TRADE IDEAS.

A NEW HAIRSTYLE? I CAN'T THINK OF SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT.



WHAT?!



HUH?!



YOU, TOO?

SO
EVERYONE
THOUGHT OF
THE SAME
THING?

THAT'S
WHAT YOU
CAME UP
WITH?!



WE ALL CAME UP WITH THE
SAME HAIRSTYLE. WE'RE ALSO
ALL STUDENTS AT CROMARTIE,
WHICH IS ARGUABLY THE
PINNACLE OF BADASSNESS. IF
YOU ASK ME, THAT CAN ONLY
MEAN ONE THING...

HERE'S
THE
DEAL.



WHOA!
SO
THIS
IS IT.
HUH?

THAT'S
WHAT
I WAS
THINKIN'!

THIS IS THE
NEW STYLE FOR
BADASSES!



YES! IF WE
RAIDED
BASS LIKE
THIS, THOSE
BASTARDS
WOULD
THROW
THEMSelves
AT OUR
FEET! WE
WOULDN'T
EVEN
HAVE TO
FIGHT!

IF WE
WALKED
OUTSIDE, I
BET PEOPLE
WOULD BE
SO SCARED
THAT NO ONE
WOULD COME
NEAR US.



THAT
JUST
SHOWS
THE
POWER OF
THIS NEW
STYLE.

NOW THAT
YOU'VE SAID
THAT,
YOUR FACE IS
STARTIN' TO
LOOK
MORE AND
MORE
BADASS. YOU'RE
PRACTICALLY
A GODDAMN
SCOUNDREL!



WERE THE BADDEST
BADASSES THERE ARE!
I FEEL LIKE WE CAN DO
ANYTHING! LIKE THERE
ARE NO RULES!



YEAH, ME
TOO. IT'S
LIKE WE'VE
CROSSED
A LINE OR
SOMETHIN'.

I FEEL LIKE
I'VE BECOME
SO INCREDIBLY
BAD. I'M KINDA
SCARED...



YOU
KNOW
WHAT
THIS
MEANS...



WE CAN DO
WHATEVER
THE HELL WE
WANT, AND
NO ONE CAN
SAY SHIT!

THERE AINT
NOTHIN' THAT
CAN SCARE US
NOW. NOTHIN'
IS GOIN' TOO
FAR!



YEAH, THAT'S
RIGHT! IT
WOULDN'T BE
A PROBLEM
AT ALL!

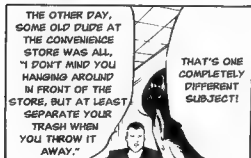
WITH THESE, WE
COULD GO TO THE
BANK WITHOUT
OUR ID's AND
THEY'D STILL
PROCESS OUR
TRANSACTIONS!



THAT
SIMPLY ISN'T
POSSIBLE!

I HAVE A FEELING THIS WOULD MAKE THEM EASIER TO GET CLOSE TO
THAN REGULAR BADASSES.

CHAPTER 202: IT'S ALL TOO MUCH





I AIN'T NEVER
HEARD OF
IT. WHEN DID
THEY MAKE
THAT?

HUH?! NATURAL-
RESOURCE
TRASH? I DIDN'T
KNOW THERE
WAS SUCH A
THING!



THIS IS
NATURAL-
RESOURCE
TRASH.



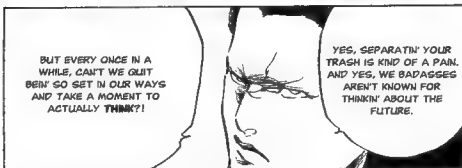
HUH?

IDIOT!



YEAH! IT'S
EASIER JUST
TO THROW
IT ALL OUT
TOGETHER!

ANYWAY,
SEPARATIN'
YOUR TRASH
IS A PAIN.



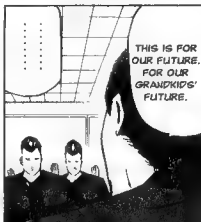
BUT EVERY ONCE IN A
WHILE, CAN'T WE QUIT
BEIN' SO SET IN OUR WAYS
AND TAKE A MOMENT TO
ACTUALLY THINK?!

YES, SEPARATIN' YOUR
TRASH IS KIND OF A PAIN.
AND YES, WE BADASSES
AREN'T KNOWN FOR
THINKIN' ABOUT THE
FUTURE.



ALRIGHT,
EVERYONE!
WHAT DO
YOU SAY WE
GIVE THIS
SEPARATIN'
THING A TRY?!

HE'S GOT
A POINT.
WE'VE BEEN
WITENAB
ABOUT
THIS.



THIS IS FOR
OUR FUTURE.
FOR OUR
GRANDKIDS'
FUTURE.



HEY,
DAMMIT!
SEPARATE
LIKE YOU
MEAN IT!

SEASHELLS
ARE NON-
BURNABLE!

THIS IS
BURN-
ABLE,
TOO.

THE LID'S
BURNABLE AND
THE BOTTOM
PART IS NON-
BURNABLE!



LET'S
GIVE IT
ALL WEVE
GOT!

YEAH, IT
RULES!

SEPARATIN'
THE TRASH IS
AWESOME!

CROMARTIE SUPPORTS GARBAGE SEPARATION!



The students of Cromartie High School - devoted to the separation of garbage

The garbage problem has become a growing concern of late, and we of Cromartie High School should be giving it our serious attention. We can't simply write this off as the waste products of society. At least we've now been made aware of the problem. Also, because words like "maggot" are often used to refer to delinquents, it's possible that we'll be seeing a growing interest in insects as well.

Burnable trash and non-burnable trash. Simply remembering these two categories is, for a student of Cromartie, quite an accomplishment. The creation of "natural-resource trash," however, makes one think it would be nice if they actually understood what burnable- and non-burnable trash is. Rather than becoming frustrated by tackling needless complexities right off the bat, it's the opinion of this newspaper that Cromartie students should instead take things slowly, gradually progressing forward and finding their footing along the way.

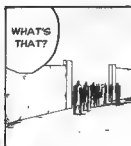
Long live garbage.

THAT
SIMPLY ISN'T
POSSIBLE!

STUDENT NEWSPAPER

NO, IT ISN'T.

CHAPTER 203: **AN INNOCENT MAN**



WHAT?!



HAVEN'T
WE SEEN
THAT GUY
SOMEWHERE
BEFORE?

A
MASK!



Z SHP





MASK,
YOU
KNOW
THAT
GUY?

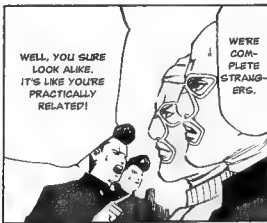
BRO?!



IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE,
BRO.



JUST
GIVE
ME A
MINUTE,
OK?



WELL, YOU SURE
LOOK ALIKE.
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE
PRACTICALLY
RELATED!

WE'RE
COMPLETE
STRANG-
ERS.



NO.



HEH. THEY'VE
COMPLETELY
FORGOTTEN,
HUH?

YEAH,
I CAN'T
REMEMBER
WHERE,
THOUGH.

I FEEL LIKE
I'VE SEEN
THAT
OTHER
DUDE
BEFORE.



SURE.

I'D LIKE TO
TALK TO
THIS GUY
ALONE.



WHAT?!
YOU'VE
FORGOTTEN
ME, TOO?!

UH...
WHO
ARE YOU
AGAIN?



ANYWAY, SO
LONG AS YOU
REMEMBER ME,
THAT'S ENOUGH.
RIGHT?

WELL, I
GUESS
IT'S TO BE
EXPECTED.

YEAH,
SORRY.
ANYWAY,
YOU'RE STILL
ALIVE, HUH?

WE HIJACKED
THAT PLANE,
REMEMBER?!
WE WORKED
TOGETHER FOR
FIVE YEARS! COME
ON, YOU CAN'T
FORGET THAT!

WELL, I
REMEMBER
YOUR FACE,
BUT NOT
YOUR NAME.
I may not
look it, but
I've got a lot
of acquaint-
ances.

THERE WASN'T A
SINGLE DAY WHERE
I ACTUALLY FELT
ALIVE, YOU KNOW? I
COULDN'T SLEEP...
I FELT LIKE EVERY
DAY, SOMEONE
WAS AFTER ME.

IT WAS HELL,
MAN. I MADE IT
TO MEXICO BY
THE SKIN OF
MY TEETH.

SHBFF

IF WE'RE BOTH IN
THE SAME PLACE,
IT'LL JUST DRAW
ATTENTION AND
INCREASE OUR
CHANCES OF
GETTING CAUGHT.
WE SHOULD HAVE
NOTHING MORE
TO DO WITH
EACH OTHER.

I
THOUGHT
WE'D
SEVERED
ALL TIES.

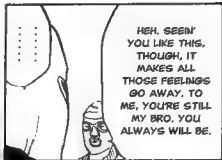
WHY
ARE YOU
BACK IN
JAPAN?

AND?

I HATED YOU FOR
THAT COLD STREAK
YOU'VE GOT IN YOU.
I'VE BEEN THINKIN' FOR
A WHILE NOW THAT IF
I HAVE TO DIE, YOU'RE
COMING WITH ME.

THINK
WHAT
YOU
LIKE.

THAT
SURE IS
COLD. AM I
A BURDEN
TO YOU
NOW?



*ON SIGN "CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL"



THINK ABOUT IT. SINCE WHEN HAS HANGING OUT WITH A GORILLA BEEN "FUN"?

THIS PLACE MAY LOOK FUN, LIKE A ZOO OR SOMETHING, BUT YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE. IT'S NOT FUN, JUST A WHOLE LOT OF ANXIETY.

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE KEEPIN' ALL THE FUN FOR YOURSELF! I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT A GORILLA AND SOME TOY-LOOKIN' THING HERE.

I SWEAR... DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

FINE. THEN LET ME STAY HERE TO BE WITH YOU. THAT'LL BE ENOUGH FOR ME.

THAT THING PRACTICALLY KILLED SOMEONE I WORK WITH! A GORILLA'S JUST A GORILLA, MAN!

YOU HAVE TO FIND YOUR OWN SCHTICK.

ON ONE CONDITION.

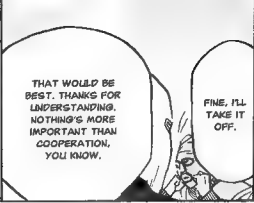
YOU MEAN I CAN COME HERE?

IT'S A COMEDY TERM. IT MEANS YOUR GIMMICK, YOUR THEME. YOU AND I ARE WAY TOO SIMILAR—IF WERE TOGETHER, THE EFFECT LOSES STRENGTH. WE DON'T STAND OUT AS MUCH.

I don't get it.

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?

MY OWN... SCHTICK?

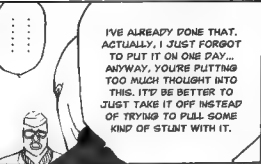


THAT WOULD BE
BEST. THANKS FOR
UNDERSTANDING.
NOTHING'S MORE
IMPORTANT THAN
COOPERATION,
YOU KNOW.

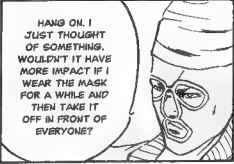
FINE, I'LL
TAKE IT
OFF.



I FOLLOW YOU.
WE BOTH WEAR
MASKS, SO TO
EVERYONE ELSE,
WE LOOK PRETTY
MUCH THE SAME.



I'VE ALREADY DONE THAT.
ACTUALLY, I JUST FORGOT
TO PUT IT ON ONE DAY...
ANYWAY, YOU'RE PUTTING
TOO MUCH THOUGHT INTO
THIS. IT'D BE BETTER TO
JUST TAKE IT OFF INSTEAD
OF TRYING TO PULL SOME
KIND OF STUNT WITH IT.



HANG ON. I
JUST THOUGHT
OF SOMETHING.
WOULDN'T IT HAVE
MORE IMPACT IF I
WEAR THE MASK
FOR A WHILE AND
THEN TAKE IT
OFF IN FRONT OF
EVERYONE?



LET ME BE
PERFECTLY CLEAR--
I COULDN'T CARE
LESS WHETHER YOU
WEAR THAT THING
OR NOT. IF YOU
REALLY WANT TO
KEEP IT ON, FINE.
KEEP IT ON!



ARE
YOU EVEN
LISTENING?!!
WHY WOULD I
GO AND PULL
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?!

YOU'RE NOT
TELLING ME
THIS SO YOU
CAN PUSH ME
OUT OF THE
PICTURE, ARE
YOU?



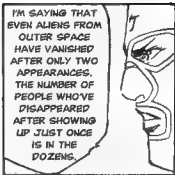
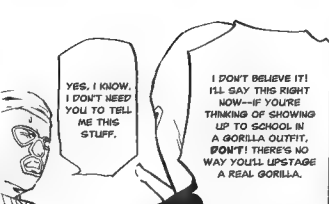
HMM, AN
ECCEN-
TRIC
COSTUME,
HUH?

ANYWAY,
WHY DON'T
YOU START
OUT WITH AN
ECCENTRIC
COSTUME?

YEAH,
FINE.



BUT IF YOU DO,
REMEMBER THAT I
WAS THE ONE WHO
WORE A MASK FIRST.
THAT MEANS YOU'LL
ALWAYS BE A PALE
IMITATION, NOTHING
MORE.



WHAT?! BUT
THAT'S WHAT
GOT YOU
NOTICED,
ISN'T IT?

THAT'S RIGHT.
AND I'LL TELL
YOU, I'VE SORT
OF STARTED
TO REGRET
WEARING THIS
MASK.

IS THAT
HOW IT
WAS? YOU'VE
REALLY BEEN
THROUGH A
LOT, HAVEN'T
YOU?

YEAH, THAT MAKES
SENSE. THE MASK IS
SUCH A POWERFUL
WEAPON THAT IT
CAN ACTUALLY
WORK AGAINST YOU,
DRAGGIN' YOU DOWN
AND MAKIN' THINGS
MORE DIFFICULT.

THAT'S WHAT I
THOUGHT...BUT NOW I
KNOW IT WAS A MISTAKE.
TO USE A BASEBALL
ANALOGY, IT'S LIKE THE
PITCHER THROWING OUT
HIS WINNING SHOT ON
THE VERY FIRST PITCH.
YOU CAN'T KEEP IT
GOING FOREVER.

YOU NEED TO WATCH
YOUR STEP. PEOPLE
HAVEN'T COME TO
ASSOCIATE YOU WITH
THE MASK YET, SO NOW'S
THE TIME TO CHANGE
THINGS UP. HERE, NOTHING
IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN
HOW YOU START OFF.
CONSIDER THIS A WORD
OF ADVICE FROM YOUR
SENIOR.

I TOTALLY
UNDERSTAND.
I SORT OF
WONDER WHY
YOU DON'T
JUST TAKE
IT OFF, BUT
I GET IT.

EXACTLY. IF YOU'RE
WEARING A MASK
RIGHT WHEN YOU
SHOW UP, THEN NO
MATTER WHAT YOU
DO AFTER THAT, IT'S
NOT GOING TO PACK
THE SAME PUNCH.
IT'S LIKE THE MASK
ECLIPSES YOU.

MAKING IT IN LIFE IS
SCARY NO MATTER
WHERE YOU ARE, BUT
YOU CAN'T GIVE UP.
YOU HAVE TO KEEP
MOVING FORWARD.
THE MINUTE YOU
STOP MOVING IS THE
MINUTE YOU START
GETTING OLD.

I...I'M
STARTIN'
TO LOSE
CONFI-
DENCE.
BRO!

I GET IT.
SO YOUR
DIRECTION IS
BASICALLY
SET FROM
YOUR FIRST
APPEARANCE.
MAN, THIS
PLACE IS
KINDA
SCARY.

ONCE YOUR
SCHTICK HAS
BEEN SET,
IT'S GONNA
BE HARD TO
CHANGE IT.
YOU SHOULD
KEEP THAT
IN MIND.



THAT'S RIGHT.
PRETTY DIFFICULT,
ISN'T IT? STILL, THE
STRANGE THING IS,
BEING A LITTLE PLAIN
ISN'T ALWAYS BAD.



I'VE GOTTA
FIND SOMETHIN'
THAT STANDS
OUT! IF I FALL
BEHIND, IT'S ALL
OVER FOR ME!



THERE'S A
BUNCH OF
DIFFERENT
ANGLES TO
CONSIDER,
HUH? THANKS,
I'VE LEARNED
A LOT.

TAKE THAT GUY OVER THERE,
THERE'S NOTHING TOO APPEALING
ABOUT HIM, AND HE CERTAINLY
DOESN'T HAVE MUCH **PRESENCE**...
BUT HE HAS NO NAME. THAT RATHER
INTERESTING WRINKLE HAS ALLOWED
HIM TO STICK AROUND FOR A
LOT LONGER THAN YOU'D THINK.
NORMALLY, SOMEONE LIKE THAT
WOULDN'T LAST FIVE SECONDS
AROUND HERE!



WHY DO YOU KEEP
GOING AFTER
OTHER PEOPLE'S
SCHTICKS?! YOU'VE
GOT TO COME UP
WITH SOMETHING
ORIGINAL!

DO YOU
THINK I
SHOULD
HAVE NO
NAME,
TOO?



LET ME
ASK YOU
SOMETHING...



YES, IT WILL BE HARD
AT FIRST, BUT IF YOU'RE
SERIOUS ABOUT COMING
TO THIS SCHOOL, YOU
NEED TO JUST DO IT
AND DON'T LET IT GET
TO YOU.

IT'LL TAKE A LOT OF
WORK, BUT YOU NEED
TO GRIT YOUR TEETH
AND TRY THINKING
OF SOMETHING NEW!
SOMETHING THAT
HASN'T BEEN DONE
BEFORE!



HMM, AN
ORIGINAL
SCHTICK,
HUH?



IT HAS TO BE
ORIGINAL, RIGHT?
SOMETHING NO
ONE'S THOUGHT
OF YET.



NO, I-ILL DO
IT! DON'T
GIVE UP ON
ME YET!

I SUPPOSE
IT'S TOO
MUCH FOR
YOU...



OH? I
LOOK
FORWARD
TO SEEING
IT.

I'VE GOT IT! I'LL
COME UP WITH
SOMETHING THAT'LL
OUTDO EVERYONE!
IT'S EVEN GOING TO
OUTDO YOU!



HM?

I THOUGHT OF
SOMETHING
NEW! LOOK!



HA!
I DID IT!



SAY GOODBYE, MASKED MAN NO. 2.

CHAPTER 204: **JEALOUSY**



WHAT DID I
SAY?! I SAID
YOU CAN'T
JUST COPY
SOMEONE
ELSE!

HM?

AREN'T YOU
EMBARRASSED
AT WHAT'S
COMING OUT OF
YOUR MOUTH?
OR DO YOU
HONESTLY NOT
THINK YOU'RE
SWIPING IDEAS?

YOU'RE
ACTUALLY
GOING TO SAY
THAT WHILE
STANDING
THERE AND
LOOKING LIKE
THAT?

I'M NOT
REALLY
TRYIN'
TO COPY
ANYONE...

IN YOUR CASE, FOR
EXAMPLE, YOU MIGHT
THINK YOU'RE JUST
~~USING SOMETHING~~
YOU'VE SEEN, WHICH
THERE'S NOTHING
WRONG WITH.

SOME PEOPLE WHO
COPY OTHERS MAY
NOT SEE THAT
THEY'RE RIPPING
PEOPLE OFF.

TRUE. EVEN IF
I SAID TO TRY
TO IGNORE
HIM, HE PACKS
A PRETTY
BIG PUNCH,
VISUALLY
SPEAKING.

OF COURSE,
I'VE SEEN THIS
GUY A COUPLE
TIMES, SO I
PROBABLY HAD
AN UNCONSCIOUS
IMAGE OF HIM OR
SOMETHING.

YOU'VE PRETTY
MUCH NAILED
IT. I DON'T FEEL
BAD... I NEVER
CONSCIOUSLY
SET OUT TO
COPY ANYBODY.

N-NO,
THAT'S
ALRIGHT. I
THINK I'VE
FIGURED
IT OUT.

DID YOU
WANNA
TAKE A
LOOK?

I DID COME
UP WITH ONE
OTHER NEW IDEA.
I GUESS NO
MATTER WHAT
I SAY, IT WON'T
BE ACCEPTABLE,
BUT...

IF YOU GO TO
SCHOOL NOW,
YOU'LL JUST
KEEP COPYING
WHOEVER YOU
SEE AROUND
YOU.

Actually,
you haven't
even come
to school
ONCE.

HLIH?!
J

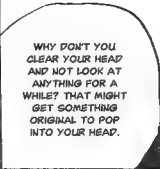
WHY DON'T
YOU TAKE
TWO OR THREE
DAYS OFF
AND THINK OF
SOMETHING?



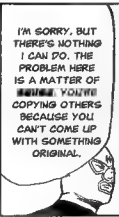
I HATE
TO PUT
IT THIS
WAY,
BUT...



OK, FINE. I'LL
TAKE SOME
TIME OFF
AND JUST
COOL DOWN
FOR A BIT.



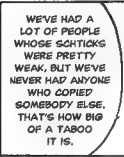
WHY DON'T YOU
CLEAR YOUR HEAD
AND NOT LOOK AT
ANYTHING FOR A
WHILE? THAT MIGHT
GET SOMETHING
ORIGINAL TO POP
INTO YOUR HEAD.



I'M SORRY, BUT
THERE'S NOTHING
I CAN DO. THE
PROBLEM HERE
IS A MATTER OF
STYLE. YOU'RE
COPYING OTHERS
BECAUSE YOU
CAN'T COME UP
WITH SOMETHING
ORIGINAL.



WHAT?!
NO!



WE'VE HAD A
LOT OF PEOPLE
WHOSE SCHTICKS
WERE PRETTY
WEAK, BUT WE'VE
NEVER HAD ANYONE
WHO COPIED
SOMEBODY ELSE.
THAT'S HOW BIG
OF A TABOO
IT IS.



COULD
BE YOUR
LAST.



THIS
NEXT
TIME...



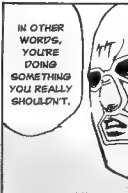
THE
NEXT
DAY



JUST
GIVE IT
YOUR
BEST
SHOT.



I-I'M
SORRY,
BRO. IS IT
TOO LATE
FOR ME
ALREADY?



IN OTHER
WORDS,
YOU'RE
DOING
SOMETHING
YOU REALLY
SHOULDN'T.



LOOK!





THAT
CRACKS
ME UP!

BWA
HA
HA
IT'S
GREAT!

HA
HA
HA

NO, I'M
JUST A
NEWS.

YOU'RE A
FUNNY GUY!
HAH!

TH-THEY'VE
TOTALLY
ACCEPTED
HIM!



WHO CARES?
LOOK HOW
FUNNY HE IS!

HAVE YOU
ALWAYS BEEN
A STUDENT
HERE?

WAIT
A MIN-
UTE.



OH, YEAH! WE DID
HAVE SOME GUY WITH
A MASK, DIDN'T WE?
I FORGOT. HE NEVER
MADE MUCH OF AN
IMPRESSION.

HE WAS TOTALLY
HERE. HE'S BEEN
HERE FOREVER! I'LL
VOUCH FOR HIM.
YOU REMEMBER
HIM, RIGHT?



HE COULD END
UP BEING MORE
POPULAR THAN



THIS IS
NOT GOOD.



THAT GUY
OVER THERE IS
THE ORIGINAL
MASKED MAN.
I'M JUST MASK
NO. 2.



NO, THAT
WASN'T ME.
I'VE ONLY JUST
TRANSFERRED
HERE.



YEAH, PICK
UP WHERE
YOU LEFT
OFF!

AAH, WHO
CARES? C'MON,
TELL US A FUNNY
STORY, MASK
NO. 2!



IS IT JUST ME,
OR IS HIS SCHTICK
GETTING MORE AND
MORE INTERESTING?

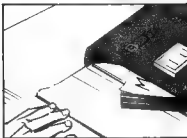


CROWDS ARE
MINDLESS BY
NATURE-- THEY'LL
EAT UP ANYTHING,
NO MATTER HOW
BORING IT IS!

NO, GET
A GRIP!
DON'T LET
YOURSELF
BE FOOLED!

Mask
No. 2's
bag

STILL, HE DID A PRETTY GOOD
JOB, CONSIDERING. IN JUST
A FEW DAYS, HE WAS ABLE
TO COME UP WITH A PRETTY
GOOD SCHTICK.

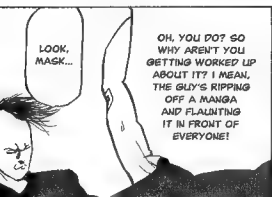
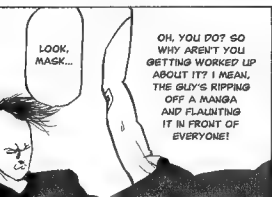
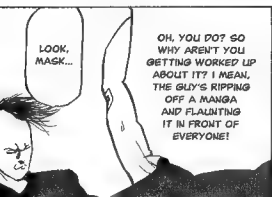
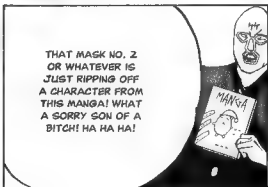
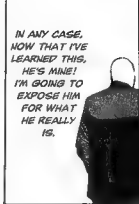
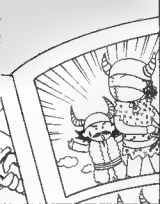


AH-HA! I KNEW THERE
WAS NO WAY HE
COULD COME UP WITH
SOMETHING ORIGINAL.
STILL, TO RIP OFF A
MANGA THAT ONLY
THE STUDENTS OF
THIS SCHOOL WOULD
NEVER GET TIRED
OF IS SINKING
PRETTY LOW!

BYE BYE VIKING

HE...HE
RIPPED OFF
A MANGA!

RAAARGH!





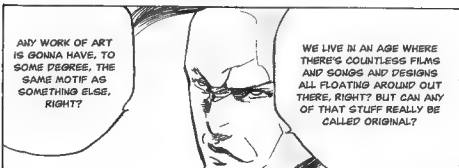
LOOK, I'M
NOT TRYIN'
TO GET
ON YOUR
CASE OR
ANYTHING.

I-I AM? I'M
RIPPING OFF
THE DE-
STROYER?

Who the heck
is that?!



IF YOU'RE
GONNA START
TALKIN' ABOUT
PEOPLE RIPPING
PEOPLE OFF,
WHAT ABOUT
THE FACT THAT
YOU'RE RIPPING
OFF THE
DESTROYER?

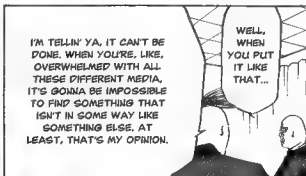


ANY WORK OF ART
IS GONNA HAVE, TO
SOME DEGREE, THE
SAME MOTIF AS
SOMETHING ELSE,
RIGHT?

WE LIVE IN AN AGE WHERE
THERE'S COUNTLESS FILMS
AND SONGS AND DESIGNS
ALL FLOATING AROUND OUT
THERE, RIGHT? BUT CAN ANY
OF THAT STUFF REALLY BE
CALLED ORIGINAL?



THAT'S WHY I
THINK IT'S BETTER TO
LOOK AT IT LIKE THIS:
EITHER SOMETHING'S
FUNNY OR IT'S NOT.
THAT'S IT.



I'M TELLIN' YA, IT CAN'T BE
DONE. WHEN YOU'RE, LIKE,
OVERWHELMED WITH ALL
THESE DIFFERENT MEDIA,
IT'S GONNA BE IMPOSSIBLE
TO FIND SOMETHING THAT
ISN'T IN SOME WAY LIKE
SOMETHING ELSE. AT
LEAST, THAT'S MY OPINION.

WELL,
WHEN
YOU PUT
IT LIKE
THAT...

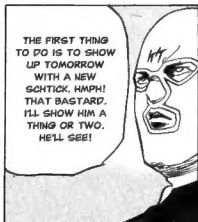


IT'S POSSIBLE
THAT WERE
PRETTY MUCH
BORED WITH
YOU.



PUT
ANOTHER
WAY...

YOU'RE
RIGHT.
THAT'S
A VERY
MATURE
OPINION
YOU HAVE
THERE.



GOOD MORNING.



WHAT'S
WITH THAT
MASK?!

WHAT...



AARGH! OF
COURSE THEY
WOULDN'T
KNOW!

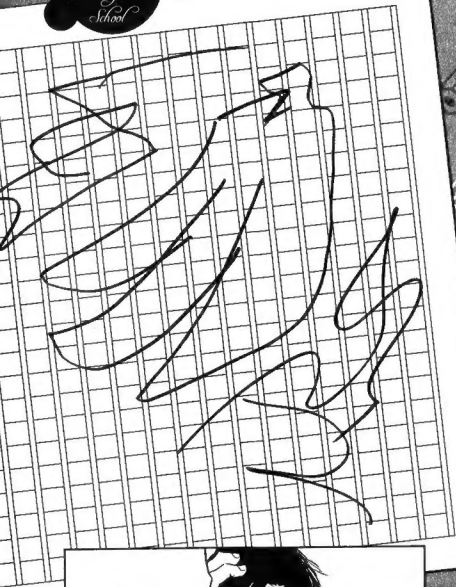
SAY,
WHO ARE
YOU?



AT LEAST MASK NO. 2 SHOULD KNOW.

VOLUME 9 ★ THE END

*Writings From
Elementary
School*



THE GORILLA
WENT TO
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL?!



CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL VOLUME NINE

© 2004 Eiji Nonaka

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2004 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo

English translation rights for this edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd.

Translator/Editor **JAVIER LOPEZ**

Graphic Artist **SCOTT HOWARD**

Copy Editor **SHERIDAN SCOTT**

Editorial Director **GARY STEINMAN**

Print Production Manager **BRIDGETT JANOTA**

Production Coordinator **MARISA KREITZ**

International Coordinators **TORU IWAKAMI AND MIYUKI KAMIYA**

President, CEO & Publisher **JOHN LEDFORD**

Email: editor@adv-manga.com

www.adv-manga.com

www.advfims.com

For sales and distribution inquiries please call 1.800.282.7202



is a division of A.D. Vision, Inc.

5750 Bintliff Drive, Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77036

English text © 2007 published by A.D. Vision, Inc. under exclusive license.

ADV MANGA is a trademark of A.D. Vision, Inc.

All Rights Reserved. This is a fictional work. Any resemblance to actual events or locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental. Reproduction and, or transmission of this work in whole or in part without written permission of the copyright holders is unlawful.

ISBN: 978-1-4139-0357-7

First printing, January 2007

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Canada